



ECHO IRELAND

Journal of the
Irish Radio Transmitters Society

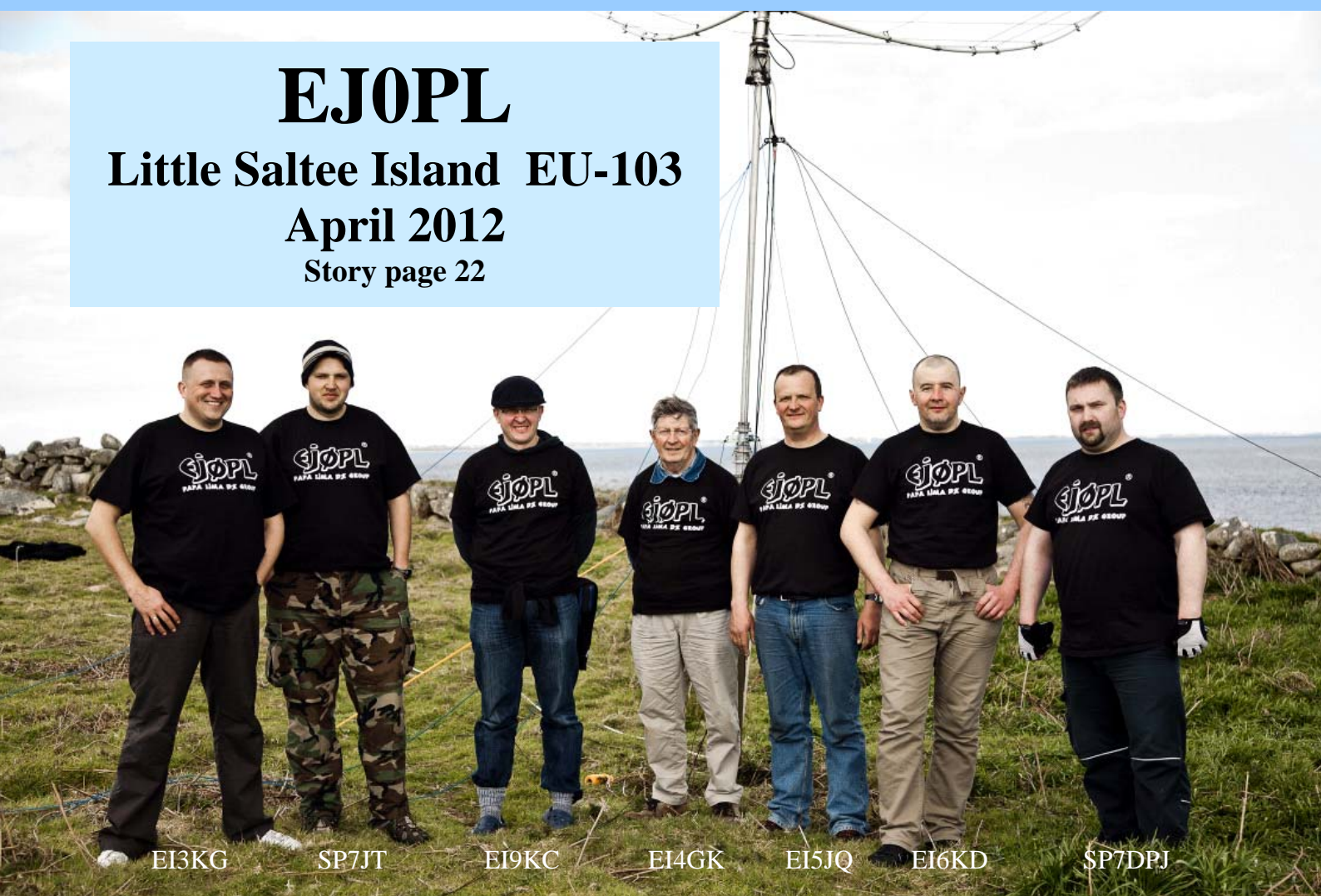
June 2012

EJØPL

Little Saltee Island EU-103

April 2012

Story page 22



EI3KG

SP7JT

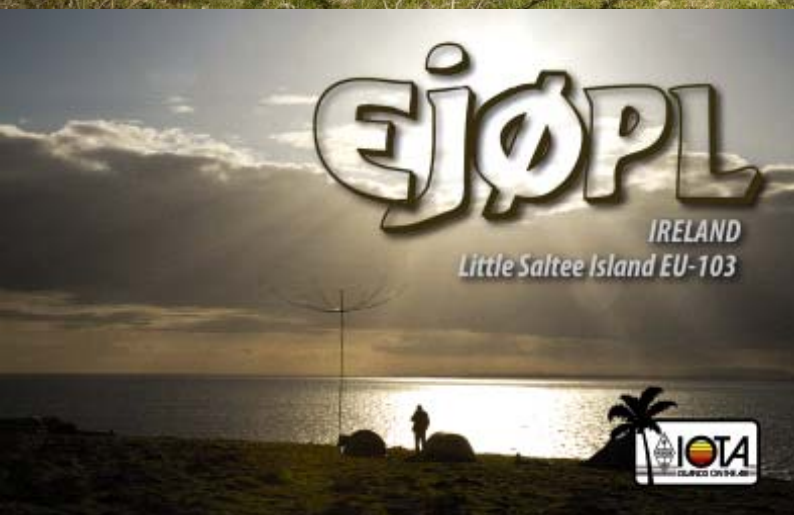
EI9KC

EI4GK

EI5JQ

EI6KD

SP7DPJ



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9 Series Calls:	Dave Deane EI9FBB	087-7444777	<i>ei9fbb@gmail.com</i>

News Bulletins and Readers

Sunday				
Dublin	1100	7.055	SSB	Sean EI7CD, Ger EI4GXB
				Francis EI5GOB, George EI7GKB
Wicklow	1130	3.680	SSB	(as Gaeilge) Paddy EI7GK, Danny EI6GS
Dublin	1145	145.525	FM	Tony EI5EM, John EI7JG, Frank EI6EF, Liam EI3HK
Dublin	1200	3.650	SSB	As 1100
Mayo	2000	145.600 - 433.450	FM	70.375 - 50.450
				John EI7IQ, Padraic EI9JA, Jimmy EI2GCB
Tipperary	2030	145.450	FM	Tommy EI2IT, John EI2JB, Andy EI5JF, Eddie EI3FFB
Monday				
Cork	2000	145.750	FM	Vincent EI7HN
Limerick	2000	145.725	FM	Brian EI9AL, Simon EI7ALB, Gerry EI3JU, Ger EI4GXB
Louth	2000	145.675		Peter EI4HX, Thos EI2JD
Tuesday				
Waterford	2130	145.650	FM	Francis EI5GOB
North Cork	2000	430.925	FM	Lisa EI9GSB

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Elected Committee Members 2012/13

John Owen-Jones EI1EM
 Thos Caffrey EI2JD
 Anthony Murphy EI2KC
 Tony Casey EI3HA
 Sean Donelan EI4GK
 Ger McNamara EI4GXB
 Stephen Wright EI5DD
 Dave O'Connor EI6AL
 Brendan Minish EI6IZ
 John Ronan EI7IG
 John McCarthy EI8JA
 Jim Holohan EI4HH (Co-Opted)

IRTS Committee Meeting
Saturday June 30th
1100
Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise

Diary Dates 2013

Lough Erne Rally April 7th 2013

IRTS AGM, Athlone April 27/28th

Call Book Correction

The correct address for **EI1KARG**
(Kerry Amateur Radio Group) is:
www.kerryamateurradiogroup.com

When is my membership due for renewal?

Your membership renewal date is shown on the wrapper in which the newsletter is posted – above the name and address. For those who receive Echo Ireland by electronic distribution, the renewal date is included in the email alert sent when a new issue is published.

Members who pay by direct debit will see “(DD)” after the renewal date.

Use **www.irts.ie/renew** to renew your membership at any time; you can also renew at a Rally, or by sending your annual subscription directly to the IRTS Treasurer.

Please renew early to keep our postage and other costs down.

Membership is extended by 12 months from the normal renewal date whenever a payment is received.

Joe Ryan, Membership Records Officer
memrecords@irts.ie

Online Access to Echo Ireland

If you would like to have online access to the complete library of Echo Ireland issues from 2001 onwards and receive new issues of Echo Ireland by way of electronic download instead of in hard copy, please advise the Membership Records Officer.

Include your call sign and email address in the request and send it to:
memrecords@irts.ie

Our President writes

I am honoured to have been elected President of IRTS at the 80th AGM in Dundalk. Growing up in Clones, Co. Monaghan I always had an interest in radio.

In the early sixties I was an SWL (EI215) and spent hours listening on the broadcast and amateur bands.

I got my licence in 1967 and started on the air with a home-brew CW transmitter.

Since then the hobby has changed a lot. Gone is the warm glow of valves, in their place integrated circuits and software. On the ground there is a network of repeaters while amateur satellites orbit the earth.

Yet the primary purpose of amateur radio remains unchanged, that of self-training in radio communication. Its relevance to the 21st century cannot be ignored. I often ask myself if amateur radio, the original social network, can provide the young people of today with an introduction to or interest in science and technology. The answer is *Yes*.

Amateur radio has been an influential force in my life. I have met people from different countries, different backgrounds, forged life-long friendships and as a result of my radio interest pursued a career in technology. Now I am a member of a very welcoming and active club, South Dublin Radio Club (SDR). The social aspects of our hobby are very important.

I am proud to be President of a long-established, distinguished Society, the success of which is deeply rooted in its network of volunteers. We are all familiar with our top-class magazine, *Echo Ireland*, our country-wide radio news service, IRTS on the Web, our QSL bureau and the activities of the Amateur Radio Emergency Network (AREN).

It is also important that we are aware of the work IRTS does which may not be as visible. The Society actively participates in the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) which represents amateur radio at an international level and whose efforts have ensured the worldwide allocation of additional frequencies to our hobby. At a local level the Society has an excellent working relationship with the licensing authority *ComReg* which ensures that matters pertaining to amateur radio receive a positive hearing as evidenced, for example, by the recent increase in power available to contest stations. The Society also sets, administers and organises the HAREC certificate examinations on behalf of *ComReg* to facilitate new entrants to the hobby. A lot of this work goes on un-noticed by the vast majority of members but you can rest assured it is happening in the background.

We all owe a debt of gratitude to the many volunteers who make this happen. They give up their spare time (when many could be on the air) to support their hobby.

However, there are not enough volunteers. I encourage you all to become involved whether at club or IRTS level. One practical thing *everyone* can do – if you know a fellow amateur who is not a member of IRTS encourage him/her to join. The Society is only as strong as its membership. In fact, the Society *is* the membership.

73,

Séamus EI8BP

Séamus McCague EI8BP
President IRTS



EI80IRTS Award

The Irish Radio Transmitters Society was founded in 1932 and we are proud to celebrate our 80th anniversary in 2012. As part of the celebrations the Society will be using the special call-sign EI80IRTS.

A special certificate, available to all amateurs and SWLs, is being offered to celebrate this wonderful occasion. Contact the special callsign EI80IRTS during the period of January 1st 2012 to December 31st 2012.

Requirements

2-way communication on Phone, CW or Digi modes on the HF (1.8-28) and VHF (50-1200MHz) bands.

Cross band QSO's will not be accepted for this award.

Contacts made via active earthbound reflectors, repeaters and EchoLink will not be counted.

The certificate is available in three levels:

- Bronze Award 3 different bands.
- Silver Award 5 different bands.
- Gold Award 8 different bands.

Applicants

Applicants should submit a list showing the date and time you worked or heard EI80IRTS, plus frequency and mode. QSL cards are not required.

The declared QSO's will be cross-checked for validity based on the logs of EI80IRTS.

The application fee is €5.00 or US \$7.00

Send applications to Award Manager:

Thos Caffrey,
The Slip,
Clogherhead,
Co. Louth,
Ireland.

At the same time, please send an e-mail to contestmanager@irts.ie to inform him that you sent your application by mail.

The award is sponsored by the Dundalk Amateur Radio Society.

Short Wave Listeners Call Book entries

Due to concerns about a possible privacy issue, we were unable to include a list of SWLs in the 2012 Call Book. We need to ask existing SWLs to **opt-in** to the inclusion of their details in our published listings.

Those who want to be included in published listings are asked to email Joe Ryan EI7GY, the Membership Records Officer at memrecords@irts.ie.

We will include a supplement to the 2012 Call Book in a future issue of Echo Ireland, which will include SWLs who ask to have their details published.

The online call book will also be modified to include these SWLs.

Change in 40 Metre News Frequency to 7123kHz from July 1st

The present 40 metre radio news frequency has become increasingly busier on Sunday mornings. This has led on occasions to some difficulty in the reception of both the bulletins and the reports on the transmissions.

It has been decided, therefore, to move the transmission of the 40 metre news to a new frequency of 7123 kHz on and from Sunday the 1st of July. This frequency was selected after monitoring a range of frequencies over a period of time by amateurs who use this particular transmission of the radio news bulletin.

Exam closing date June 14th

The next Amateur Station Licence Examination which will be held on Thursday 28th June at 2 p.m. in the ComReg Offices in Dublin.

The closing date for entries is Thursday 14 June. Full details, including entry procedure, examination fee and how to pay the fee online are available by clicking on the Licence Exam button on the IRTS homepage at www.irts.ie

Places for the examination are limited and are allocated on a first come first served basis. Please note that it is necessary to download the application form from the web page and forward the completed form and the appropriate fee in order to secure a place for the examination.

If you pay the fee on line you must still complete and forward the application form.

Mayo Radio Experimenters Titanic Special Event Operation EI 1 MGY

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic, The Mayo Radio Experimenters operated EI1MGY from the 8th to 21st of April as part of the Addergoole Titanic Society's week-long centenary programme of events which took place in the village of Lahardane, County Mayo.

In April 1912 fourteen men and women from the Parish of Addergoole, in North Mayo, set sail from Queenstown, Cork for a new life in America. Within days, eleven had died in the icy waters of the North Atlantic. Their ship, 'Titanic', sank on her maiden voyage.

Rural Ireland resounds with tales of emigration, steeped in the traditions of letting go. Addergoole will never let go of the memory of eleven neighbours and friends who disappeared with that "Ship of Dreams".

Please visit: www.mayo-titanic.com where you can download a report and pictures of the events.

Letters to the Editor.....

An open letter to the senior IRTS committee.

Dear Sirs,

Once again I feel compelled to complain about the IRTS' attitude towards our SWL members.

In last month's magazine Short Wave Listeners were only mentioned three times amongst the usual elite licensed members.

There was no mention of SWL entry in the upcoming national contest, are we allowed to participate at all?

And worst of all, for the first time in my long membership, there was no SWL section in the latest Call-book.

I had several communications with a former IRTS President a few years ago.

He agreed that SWLs were neglected and assured me that the situation would change; it has not, indeed it has now deteriorated almost to non-existence.

Are there still senior officials who believe that all SWLs should obtain a license **or be ignored like third-class citizens?**

Perhaps I am spoiled by my additional membership of the International Short Wave League where I serve as an elected League Council member.

An organisation that encourages SWLs as equals to licensed amateurs and broadcast listeners.

I listen avidly and enthusiastically to nets, special events stations and DX and I am as much of an 'Experimenter' as the best of the ops.

(I hold the same membership 'call-sign' in both societies but only transmit with my G call when in UK)

SWLs pay a fee and contribute with QSL reports and magazine articles; we are members too.

Why has this glaring call-book omission occurred and why cannot SWLs not enter contests this year?

73 de Peter J Mac Dougall MCII, EI-299, G7VEW.
Bohola, Co Mayo

Remote Operation

Dave EI6AL (Letters to the Editor - April 2012) says "he does not understand the thinking behind the proposition that remote station QSOs are not 'real' QSOs".

The issue is clear and unambiguous. If the only way you can have a "QSO" is to first make a phone call, or connect to the internet (and stay connected in either case) then, however you choose to describe it, the contact is at best some form of hybrid communications contact. Technical and personal considerations, no matter how deserving, cannot change this fact.

By making the phone call, or connecting to the internet, you abandon the communications independence that defines amateur radio - the independence that justifies our access to the bands. Remote-control may be great fun, a significant technical challenge and a source of personal satisfaction, but none of this is relevant. To argue otherwise leads inevitably to acceptance, as amateur radio, of the absurdity that is CQ100 (www.qsonet.com).

Those who claim "it's the only way I can get on the air" deserve no sympathy. If you can't operate amateur radio from where you are, then go to where you can. Remote control serves only to undermine amateur radio by putting the wires back into wireless. It doesn't just devalue your contacts, it disqualifies them as amateur-radio QSOs.

To those who enjoy being internet amateurs, or hybrid-communications amateurs, I say by all means go ahead and have fun with remote control, but don't pretend your contacts are something they're not. The way to promote amateur radio is to celebrate, and demonstrate, its absolute independence as a mode of communications.

73,
Paul EI5DI

IRTS Regional Representatives

Regional Representatives act as liaison between members/clubs in their respective regions and the IRTS Committee.
Feel free to contact them if you have any issue to raise or suggestion to make about IRTS or its activities.

1	Dublin North of the Liffey	Derek McGonagle EI7CHB	01-8491391	derekmcgonagle@hotmail.com
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Trophy Winners at the 2012 IRTS AGM in Dundalk

The President's Cup	The Arup Cup	The Collins Cup	Sheila Piper Cup
			
John Tait EI7BA	Padraic Baynes EI9JA	Tom McGrath EI7HT	Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX
The Paddy Smyth Cup	Lough Ree Shield	Kevin Freeny Trophy	Lough Derg Shield
			
Jim Holohan EI4HH	Jimmy EI2GCB (MREN)	Patrick Ryan EI7CN	Ger McNamara EI4GXB
The Folan Shield	EI2AK Memorial Cup	IRTS DX Trophy	Hal Hodgens Key
			
Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX	Brian EI9GTB (DARS)	Olivier EI8QGB	Oleg Solovyov, EI7KD
EI5AJ Perpetual Cup	Tom Donnellan Cup	4 Metre Shield	Pete Daly Cup
			
Thos Caffrey EI2JD	Brendan Minish EI6IZ	Pat Whitty EI8IQ	Jeremy Sheehan EI5GM
Thomond Trophy	Ian Morris Trophy	6 Metre Shield	Lough Boffin Shield
			
Declan EI9HQ (EI9E/P)	Mandy Lacey EI1627	Dave Deane EI9FBB	Shauna Baynes EI1588

Awards presented at the 2011 AGM

Arup Cup

Exceptional service to the Society or to Amateur Radio.

Padraic Baynes, EI9JA

Michael Collins Memorial Trophy

Exceptional service to the Society or to Amateur Radio

Tom McGrath, EI7HT

Pat Conway Perpetual Memorial Trophy

Exceptional service to the Society or to Amateur Radio

Dundalk Amateur Radio Society, EI7DAR

Sheila Piper Cup

Service to the IRTS News Service

Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX

The President's Cup

Presented at the discretion of the President of the Society

Awarded for exceptional service to the hobby

John Tait EI7BA

The EI3AV Perpetual Cup

Leading IRTS Regional Representative

Thos Caffrey EI2JD

Ian Morris Memorial Trophy

SWL with the highest number of DXCC entities

in the previous calendar year

Mandy Lacey, EI1627

EI7IQ National 6 Metre Shield

Leading EI/EJ IRTS member for 6 metre activity in the

previous calendar year

Dave Deane EI9FBB

EI7IQ National 4 Metre Shield

Leading EI/EJ IRTS member for 4 metre activity in the

previous calendar year

Pat Whitty EI8IQ

Slievenamon Shield

Leading EI station operating FM on 70cms during July

No entry

Lough Boffin Shield

Leading SWL in the Winter 80m Counties Contest

Sauna Baynes EI1588

Lough Ree Shield

SSB Portable Section Winter 80m Counties Contest

Mayo Radio Experimenters Network EI7MRE/P

Lough Allen Shield

SSB Fixed Section Winter 80m Counties Contest

EI80IRTS (op EI2JD)

Lough Derg Shield

SSB/CW Fixed Section Winter 80m Counties Contest

Ger McNamara EI4GXB

Lough Boderg Shield

SSB/CW Portable Section Winter 80m Counties Contest

No Entry

The EI5AJ Perpetual Cup

SSB/CW Fixed Section Summer 80m Counties Contest

Thos Caffrey EI2JD

Folan Shield

For home constructed equipment

Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX

Kevin Freeny Trophy

For proficiency in equipment construction

Patrick Ryan, EI7CN

IRTS DX Trophy

Leading IRTS Member in the single operator sections

of the annual RSGB IOTA contest

Olivier Vandenbalck, EI8GQB

Hal Hodgins Trophy

Top scoring IRTS Member in the 12 hour CW

section of the RSGB IOTA contest

Oleg Solovyov, EI7KD

IRTS IOTA Trophy

Leading island (EJ) DX-pedition station in the annual

RSGB IOTA contest

EJ3Z - Shannon Basin and Galway REC

Pete Daly Memorial Cup

Winning station in the open section of the IRTS CW Field Day

Jeremy Sheehan EI5GM/P

Paddy Smyth Memorial Cup

Leading station in the restricted section of the

IRTS CW Field Day

EI4HH/P - Jim Holohan

Paddy Daly Microphone

Winning station in the open section of the IRTS SSB Field Day

EI7DAR/P - Dundalk Amateur Radio Society

IRTS HF Shield

Leading station in the restricted section of the

IRTS SSB Field Day

EI1C/P - Cork Radio Club

Thomond Trophy

Winning station in the open section of the

IRTS VHF/UHF Field Day

EI9E/P - Network South Area REC

Shandon Trophy

Winning station in the restricted section of the

IRTS VHF/UHF Field Day

EI0W/P - Dundalk Amateur radio Society

Tom Donnellan EI9BG Cup

Top IRTS Member in the CW single op section of the

CQWW DX contest

Brendan Minish EI6IZ

Dermot Cowley EI2AK Memorial Cup

Winning station in the 1.2GHz restricted section of the

IRTS VHF/UHF Field Day

EI7DAR/P - Dundalk Amateur Radio Society



HF Happenings

with Anthony Murphy EI2KC

Hello and welcome to the June instalment of HF Happenings. Hopefully you've been putting some good DX in your log of late. Conditions haven't been exactly fantastic, but the DX has definitely been there to be worked and many a happy EI op has seen their DXCC tally go up in the past couple of months.

Propagation

Conditions have not been wonderful, and although the sun has been active, we haven't seen the openings on 10 metres and 12 metres that enabled us to work so many DX entities in the second half of 2011. The sunspot number is regularly over 100, and the solar flux index too, but this hasn't benefited propagation to the extent we might have wished. However, don't be deterred by this. Regularly there is good DX to be worked even under mediocre conditions. One recent example was 3W7W, Wayne in Vietnam, who was bombing into Ireland on 20 metres at around 11pm local time. A number of us logged him before he went QRT. I had him at 5 and 7 on a vertical while those with beams reported a 59+10dB signal. Fantastic stuff.

Reports from around Ireland

EI9KC: One of Ireland's newest and most active DXers is Ark, EI9KC, who is based in Celbridge in Co. Kildare. Ark uses a 7-PL two-element multi-band delta beam and a multiband dipole and has been doing remarkably well. He is regularly in the EI top ten – and more often the top five – in the DXpedition logs. Ark writes about some interesting QSLs into Oceania:

"From time to time I like to use Japan DX-Clusters to see what conditions are like on the bands in different parts of the World. When Neil V73NS was calling CQ one day early in the morning on 21MHz CW his signal was spotted in Japan. I tuned to his frequency just to try to listen for a signal. And I was amazed because signal from Marshall Island was quite good at my location. I gave him a call and he replied to me. We had a short QSO. He was still calling CQ CQ after our QSO and he had no takers. He was calling CQ for good few minutes with no reply. I sent a spot on the DX-Cluster with his callsign and to be honest no-one showed up on his frequency to give him a call. Probably he was only readable in our part of Europe that moment. A few days later V73NS confirmed our QSO on LoTW. I also sent a direct QSL to his QSL Manager and his card returned in less than two weeks!!"

In the same way as the above, using the Japan cluster, Ark worked Micronesia and Western Samoa. This is perhaps a valuable piece of information for all EI Dxers Hi Hi !!! Well done Ark.

EI9FVB: Declan in Ballincollig, Co. Cork, who has been a long-time DXer, provides us with the following update:

"I've been kinda busy working mostly evening times and over some weekends when time allows...hi hi. Everything worked on SSB only here, using a 3 element SteppIR, IC756Pro2 and AL811 amplifier. Totals worked here currently at # 267.

I managed to work seven new ones including SV2ASP/A, EP4RF, 9M0L, RI1FJA and the DXpeditions 706T, E40VB and 6O0CW. All worked on SSB.

Lots of other EI's worked these DXpeditions on many slots, so it might be worth publishing something about them too. Some of them have worked many many slots, such as John EI7BA. The 6m band has had a few openings lately, but mostly EU stations worked here, like DL, SP, HA, OK, OM, OE, CT8, 9A, S52 and YU. No new DX worked here on this band. I also was awarded my DXCC on 10m and 17m bands a few weeks ago, to add to my 20m and 15m DXCC.

My 12m and 40m DXCC is also on route with the ARRL, who have a delay of approx 6 weeks in DXCC submissions. Again there appears to be a lot of EI submissions with the ARRL in the last few months, so I expect a lot of activity on the EI DXCC standings.

I'm nearly there on 80m, at # 94, but the last few are hard to catch. We're using a homebrew inverted V dipole at 40ft for 80m."

EI2GLB: Trevor in Co. Kildare is another very active DXer, especially of late, and has achieved a lot with his multiband hexbeam. Trevor writes:

"While the conditions have not been at their best over the last couple of months there has been some good DX to be worked. I'll just list some of the highlights of what I have worked over the last two months.

10m: Contacts with 6O0CW, 7O6T, 9M0L, A25CF, ZD7XF and VQ9JC were some of the most notable ones for me on 10m. I have found 10m to be poor with only sporadic opens of late.

Just as I write this I have just worked E40VB in Palestine.

12m: TO3X in St Barts, 9M0L in Spratly, 3C0E in Annobon and 7O6T in Yemen was about as exciting as 12m has been here. This is a great band but I often overlook in favour of 10m, much to my DXCC count on 12's demise.

15m: Again I got 3C0E here along with their previous operation in 3C6A which I mention in my last report, Also got 7O6T, 6O0CW, 9M0L, S21B for an all-time new one, and PY0FM on Fernando de Noronha. 15 has been my main DX band and there is always some nice DX on it when it opens.

17m: Is like 12 here, a band I often overlook in favour of 15m. I need to spend more time here to increase my totals and get more confirmed QSO's. DX here was mainly the big expeditions like 6O, 7O, 9M0, 3C0 some others to note were VP2V/ NY6X VP9/OH1VR.

20m: Again it's mainly been the big ones here with QSOs with 6O, 7O, 9M0 etc, some of the best of the rest were E51M, A35YZ, and 3D2YA.

30m: This is fast becoming one of my favourite bands, lots of DX to be had with the usual 6O, 7O, 9M0 and others being 5X5, E51M, VK0TH for an all-time new one, and A35YZ from Togo.

80m & 40m: Not much to report here got 9M0 on 40 and 7O on 80 that's about it worth noting.

Looking forward to chasing XX9 in the upcoming days and that will be me QRT on HF for the next few months as it will be time to go back to 6 and 4m."

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EI8IU: Brian is located in County Leitrim and has been licenced since 1998. He tells us:

"My equipment is an Icom IC756 pro 2, 80 meter horizontal loop and a very recently purchased AL84 linear. I had never used a linear before and always thought that 100 watts would suffice, but, the difference the 400 watt has made is unbelievable. I use both SSB and CW and can only sing the praises of CW for reaching the more difficult DX. I don't have a lot of time to be QRV but really enjoy it when I can!

Here is a list of what I think are my notable QSOs: HR5/F2JD, 20m SSB; HZ1TT, 12m SSB; VP2MLR, 15m CW; TJ6RM, 17m SSB; 9V1SM, 17m SSB; BA7IO, 17m CW; SV2ASP/A, 20m SSB; OA1F, 15m CW; 7O6T, 20m CW; 6O0CW, 17m CW; E51JD 20m SSB, (I worked him as EI8IU/M using alnico 77th and ampro 20m mobile ant)."

EI4GXB: Ger McNamara is well known to us all as secretary of the IRTS. He is also a keen DXer, with a current DXCC total of 289 worked. He uses a Yaesu FT2000, a Cushcraft A3S and various wire and vertical antennae. He was a short wave listener over a period of 30 years and was fond of listening to his late father, Pat EI9CB, working DX and contesting. Here is a log extract for May showing the DX Ger has worked:

FG4NO Guadeloupe 12 SSB; JT5NM Mongolia, 15 CW; 6O0CW Somalia, 12 CW, 17 SSB, 15 SSB, 10 SSB, 15 CW, 20 SSB; RI1ANF South Shetland Islands 15,20,17 CW; 7O6T Yemen, 30 CW, 80 SSB, 10 CW, 12 SSB, 17 CW, 20 CW, 10 SSB, 15 CW, 20 SSB, 17 SSB, 15 SSB; RI1FJA, Franz Josef Land 20 SSB; JD1BMH, Ogasawara Island, 20 SSB & CW; XV2A Vietnam 15 SSB; 9M0L, Spratly Island, 20 SSB. 6m has recently opened up and contacts throughout Europe are the norm, but the DX does show up from time to time and the Summer months will be very busy on that band. These contacts are outside of my normal ragchew stints and you would be amazed when you call CQ on an apparently dead band, who comes back to you.

EI2JD: Thos in Clogherhead, Co. Louth is well known the length and breadth of Ireland as one of the country's most active HF DXers and is also keen on contesting. Although busy in recent times organising the IRTS 80th anniversary AGM weekend in Dundalk, Thos still found some time to put decent DX into this log. Here is a summary:

C91JD 40m SSB; RI1ANF (South Shetland) 15CW, 17CW; 6O0CW 12RY, 10CW, 15CW; E40VB 12SSB; YJ0VK 17CW; VP2V/NY6X 17CW; JX9JKA 20SSB, 80SSB; JD1BMH 17CW; J69AZ 17SSB; C31CT 20CW; 9Y4LAS 17SSB; PJ7MF 17SSB; HK1MW 12CW; ST2AR 12CW; LY2BAW 6CW, 160SSB; OJ0B 30CW; GR100MGY 80CW; 9V1SV 17SSB; 9M0L 17SSB; JY5IB 15SSB; RI1FJA 17CW; 5P12EU 40CW; 8J1RL 17CW; XL3T 40SSB; WL7E 17SSB.

EI7BA: John Tait needs no introduction. As Tina Turner once sang, "You're simply the best" and this applies to John, who recently received an IRTS President's award for his DXing achievements. In the 7O6T DXpedition, John unsurprisingly finished top of the EIs with NINETEEN band slots, leaving most of use in awe! Congrats John on your well deserved award. John writes:

"Not much news here really. I'm getting down to a bit of antenna maintenance, now that Summer has almost arrived. I took down my homebrew HexBeam, to make room for the



VHF beams. I built myself an interlaced G0KSC designed Yagi, for 6 and 4m, so I'm QRV on 4m for the first time. I built and fitted the G4FUF preamp to my FT-847, and did the PA mod, so I now have a nice clean 90W, and a "hot" receiver. My neighbour Tom EI4DQ is also now QRV on 4m. I worked my first DX on 4m this week, an OM3, followed by OK, and I4.

I had an interesting time comparing my HexBeam with my Quad over the Winter. The Hex is a most impressive antenna, and is ideal for the guy with a small garden. It's just as quiet as my Quad on receive, and has excellent F/B ratio. Other than a bit of a gallop with 7O6T, I've not been too active on HF. It was nice to get an 'eyeball' with a lot of pals, old and new, at the AGM in Dundalk. A good time was had by all. Kudos to the Dundalk gang for looking after us so well.

Recent DXpeditions

9M0L Spratly Island

This DXpedition to Layang-Layang Atoll, Spratly Island, took place in April and offered many of us an opportunity to either work a new DXCC or to fill out some more slots. It was a light weight DXpedition from the point of view that all equipment had to be hand-carried by the team, which was comprised of Japanese and Malaysian operators. 34 EI callsigns made it into the log. Congrats to the top ten: EI2GLB (9 slots), EI4CF (7), EI8H (6), EI9KC (6), EI2KC (6), EI7BA (5), EI9O (4), EI0CZ (4), EI2CN (3), EI9JC (3) and EI6IL (3).

7O6T Yemen

This DXpedition almost sprung up out of nowhere, having been kept hush hush and not publicised in advance. It was a real pleasure to hear such a rare one on the air. Up until this activation, Yemen was featured in CQ Magazine's listings as the fifth most wanted DXCC. Many of us put 7O into the log for the very first time. The pile-ups for the first five days or so were immense, such that some EI DXers remarked that it was even more difficult to work than ST0R South Sudan! Nevertheless the pile-ups did gradually thin out, allowing even most and low power stations to get into the log. Exactly 100 EI callsigns made it into the log. Congratulations to everyone on working this rare one. Top of the list were: EI7BA (19 slots), EI2JD (16), EI4CF (15), EI9JF (14), EI2GLB (14), EI2CN (12), EI9FBB (12), EI6IL (12), EI9KC (11), EI4GXB (11), EI2KC (11), EI4II (0) and EI5GM (10).

XX9E Macau

This dxpedition by a group of Spanish operators, and one French op, is active as I write this. So far it is a tough one for

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EI but this hasn't stopped at least a few Irish hams getting into their log. I will provide a more comprehensive update in the next issue.

JX9JKA Jan Mayen

Not a DXpedition as such. Svein, LA9JKA, is based on Jan Mayen for one year until March 2013, activating this rare one. Listen for Svein on all HF bands. He has been worked down to 80 metres and up to 10 metres so far.

6O0CW Somalia

A somewhat controversial DXpedition in that N6PSE Paul Ewing's Inrepid-DX group had planned a major DXpedition to Somalia in November 2012. Paul has since announced the cancellation of his planned DXpedition because the 6O0CW activation has greatly reduced the demand for Somalia.

While a bit of tit-for-tat slagging was going on over the internet, those of us who needed Somalia took advantage of the 6O0CW operation, which was organised as part of a humanitarian mission by the I2YSB Italian DXpedition team.

The DXpedition does not use the Clublog charts so it's not easy to tell who was top of the pile, so congratulations to all EIs who made it into the log.

Forthcoming DXpeditions

D6, COMOROS

A few more details on the upcoming D64K DXpedition were released recently by Frabrizio, IW3SQY.

A team of European operators will be active as D64K from Comoros Islands (IOTA AF-007) in August 2012. Operators mentioned are Fabrizio/IW3SQY, Paolo/IV3DSH, Antonello/IT9YVO, Franco/IZ8GCE, Giorgio/IZ4AKS, Les/SP3DOI and Salvador C31CT/EA3QS.

The team has already obtained all permissions, and the license has been sent to the DXCC Desk. It was mentioned that at the present time it is appropriate to maintain confidentiality about dates and locations for safety reasons given the delicate political situation on the island. The official D64K Web site will go online about a month before the DXpedition. Their license covers from 160 to 6 meters, so the guys will be active on all bands and modes, and they are even considering the possibility of working on 60m and 6m.

The QSL Manager will be Paolo, IV3DSH. More details will be forthcoming. Watch the following for updates: <http://www.d64k.com> <https://twitter.com/#!/D64K>

V8 Brunei

Members of the Mediterraneo DX Club will sponsor/plan another DXpedition, this time to Brunei (OC-088). The multinational team (90% of the team operated during the 9N7MD DXpedition) will be active as V84SMD between November 13-22nd. Activity will be on 160-10 meters, including the 30/17/12 meter bands, using CW, SSB and RTTY. They plan to have 15 to 18 operators with 4 to 5 stations on the air 24 hours.

Their equipment will be Icom 7000s and Elecraft K2s. Antennas will be 3 Spiderbeam (5 bands), 80m vertical full size, inverted L for 160m, vertical for 40m, vertical dipole for 30m and beverages for receiving.

The operators mentioned are Henri/F1HRE, Michel/F5EOT,

Jean-Luc/F6BIV, Gabriele/I2VGW, Pino/I8YGGZ, Fabio/IK2LTR, Marco/IZ2GNQ, Antonio/IZ8CCW, Eric/ON7RN, UZ2HKC, Roslan/V85AVE, Nizam/V85AX, Mohammad/V85TX and Bimbo/YB3MM.

QSL via IK2VUC, direct, by the Bureau or the OQRS. Logs will be uploaded to LoTW 4-5 months after the activity. A Web page is under construction and will be online soon at: <http://www.mdxc.org/v84smd>

VK9L Lord Howe Island

Operators Pat/VK2PN and Miro/OK1NG, along with the help of Chris/VK3FY, will be active as VK9PN during the CQWW WPX CW Contest (May 26-27th) as a Multi-Op entry. QSL for operator's instructions.

Pat and Miro will be on Lord Howe Island between May 23-30th. However, Chris will be there on a work assignment between May 27th and June 2nd. He will only be able to operate during the week and most likely during the evenings as work will take precedence. He will be active as VK9LHI after the contest. Modes most likely will be CW, SSB and some RTTY. QSL via VK3HF.

V6, Micronesia

Operators Sho/JA7HMZ (V63DX) and Akio/JA7ZP (V63ZP) will be active from Pohnpei Island (OC-010) between May 25-29th. Activity will be on 40-10 meters and all modes. QSL via their home callsigns.

Also, look for V6A during the CQWW WPX CW Contest (May 26-27th) as a Single-Op/All-Band entry.

Operator is JA7HMZ and QSL V6A via JA7HMZ.

5X5RO Uganda

Freddy, J28RO (F5IRO) will be in Uganda from May to June, 2012 for business reasons. He informed dxcoffee.com that he's currently operating from 30 to 10 meters on CW and PSK every afternoon and evening.

A few EIs have already logged him.

XZ1K Myanmar

HS0ZIB is on the air from Myanmar as XZ1K. This is not a DXpedition type operation, so the pressure is not on to work this country during a specific time frame. Simon actually expects his work to keep him there for the next several years.

P29 Papua New Guinea

Derek G3KHZ informs us that he and Hans SM6CVX are planning another IOTA expedition to Papua New Guinea for three weeks in October. Islands visited will be:

St Matthias (OC-103), Tabar (OC-099) and Lihir (OC-069).

It's possible Hans may journey to another island after the main activity. An opportunity may exist for an extra operator (contact G3KHZ).

A5A – Bhutan

The FGC DX Group (Foundation for Global Children) is pleased to announce their next multi-national DXpedition to Bhutan, callsign A5A. They will begin operations by May 24, 2012 and will run until June 6th. They will activate 80-6m including the WARC bands using modes: SSB, CW, and RTTY. They will erect high gain antennas, utilize receive antennas, and run amplifiers at three stations.

The team is expected to consist of: JH1AJT, JJ1LIB, ZL1GO, VR2KF and KL2A.

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Shack visit

From time to time in this column I intend to visit various Irish DXers to see their stations and perhaps publish some photos here. The first of these visits was to Dublin city.

EI7JN Tony

I recently had the pleasure of a visit to the shack of Tony Byrne, EI7JN, who is a big DXer and operates from a very urban location in Crumlin, Dublin. Tony operates mainly on SSB but is fond of some CW also, and is extremely active on the bands. Indeed his callsign is regularly spotted on the DX clusters. He has a very good set-up given his relatively cramped urban location.

Tony's main antenna is a TH11, which for those who are unfamiliar with these antennas is an 11-element five-band beam made by HyGain. He also has a full size Carolina Windom. The main rig is an Icom 756 ProII and he has a linear ampli-



fier giving him 400 watts when needed.

When I get the chance I will visit the shacks of EI operators who are active on HF. It's always interesting to see the sort of set-ups that other hams have, and to get an idea about the sort of conditions they operate under. If you'd like me to visit your shack, or indeed if you'd like to send me pictures and some information, I'd be delighted to hear from you at hamradioireland@gmail.com.

That's it for now folks. Remember I'd love to hear about your HF and DX activities as always. If you want to send me a hand-written contribution by post you can mail it to Anthony Murphy EI2KC, 80 Cedarfield, Donore Road, Drogheda, Co. Louth. And as usual the email address is hamradioireland@gmail.com

I hope to hear your callsigns in the pile-ups! In the meantime, have a good summer, and enjoy this great hobby of ours.

73 for now.
Slán go fóill
EI2KC

2m Trans Atlantic Beacon in Fermanagh

Transatlantic radio contact has never yet been achieved on the 2 metre band.

Earlier news (December 2011) on www.learc.eu was that a test beacon was planned in Fermanagh, the nearest part of the UK to North America.

UPDATE - Southgate News today - on 18t May 2012, Ofcom issued a NoV for this transatlantic beacon, call sign GB3WGI to test the possibility of a 144MHz transatlantic path from Navar in north west Fermanagh.

Located at Lough Navar Forest in Co Fermanagh, Northern Ireland OSI 06599 57718, 349m a.s.l. with a clear take off over the sea, GB3WGI ("West GI") will radiate on 144.487MHz towards North America, initially with an ERP of 100 Watts with plans to increase this if licensing allows.

This beacon was made possible due to the generous donation of a transmitter by Brian Justin, WA1ZMS, the man behind the US 70MHz beacon, and NoV holder, Gordon Curry GI6ATZ who is providing the site and site services.

No date is yet fixed for the installation of the beacon, but plans are well under way and an announcement will be made in due course.

The Brendan Awards

The Brendan Awards are designed to encourage experimentation with two-way trans Atlantic communications by radio amateurs using the Two Metre Band.

The **Brendan Trophies** and **Brendan Shields** will be presented to each of the operators of the two amateur radio stations which first establish two-way communication in the relevant category between the continents of Europe and America (North or South) within the Two Metre Amateur Band[\[a\]](#). If a station has more than one operator at the time of the contact, then the award will be made jointly to those operators who can show that they contributed materially to the contact at that time.

The **Brendan Plate** will be awarded to the Receiving station, or to both the Receiving and Transmitting station where the Transmitting station has specifically attempted a trans Atlantic contact.

Full details on www.irts.ie



Irish Radio Transmitters Society

80th Annual General Meeting, Dundalk, April 22nd 2012

Another big milestone in the history of IRTS was marked with the 80th AGM and dinner being expertly hosted by the Dundalk Amateur Radio Society over the weekend of April 21/22nd 2012.

Led by Chairman Thos EI2JD, members of DARS pulled out all the stops to make it a memorable and enjoyable weekend for all who attended.

The venue was the Fairways Hotel and it proved an ideal venue. Rooms rates were very reasonable and the prices charged for food on the restaurant and bar was unbelievably low.

How about €9.95 for a three course lunch - soup, main and dessert.

The annual dinner, held on the Saturday night, was attended by over 90 members and guests from all parts of the country.

Guests of the Society included Hans Timmerman, PB2T (President of IARU Region 1), Colin Thomas, G3PSM (representing RSGB), Rory Hinchy, EI4DJB (representing the Minister for Communications), Derek O'Reilly (representing ComReg) and Marianne Butler, who chairs Dundalk Town Council.

After the dinner we were entertained by the Donal Nagle Band.

Discussions at the bar continued late into the night.

Dundalk club members were up bright and early on Sunday morning to get the rally up and running.

The hotel proved an excellent venue for all the events with loads of room available.

All the usual traders set up their stalls and a feature of the rally was the number of clubs who mounted stands to display their activities.

Paul O'Kane EI5DI gave a well supported presentation on his SD logging programme and three candidates successfully took the Morse test.

The 80 metre news bulletin was broadcast from the hotel by Ger EI4GXB using the facilities of the AREN mobile unit which was on display all weekend and it attracted great interest.



Members of the Dundalk ARS with their trophies at the IRTS AGM



Guests at the IRTS Annual Dinner 2012

Hans PB2T, Colin D3PSM, Derek O'Reilly, Paul EI2CA IRTS President, Marianne Butler Chairperson Dundalk Town Council, Rory EI4DJB



IRTS Past Presidents at the IRTS Dinner

Finbarr EI1CS, Sean EI4GK, Paul EI2CA, Sean EI7CD, Paul EI5DI, Dave EI4BZ

The turnout at the society's Annual General Meeting was the highest in recent years. In addition to the presentation of the Committee Report and the Annual Accounts, there was a lively discussion at the meeting on points raised by members.

Both Hans PB2T, representing IARU and Colin G3PSM addressed the meeting. Paul Martin EI2CA formally handed over the Presidency to Seamus McCague EI8BP.

The day concluded with the presentation of trophies for the numerous awards for service the society or hobby and for contests. Details elsewhere in this issue.

All who attended, left singing the praises of both the venue and the organisers who

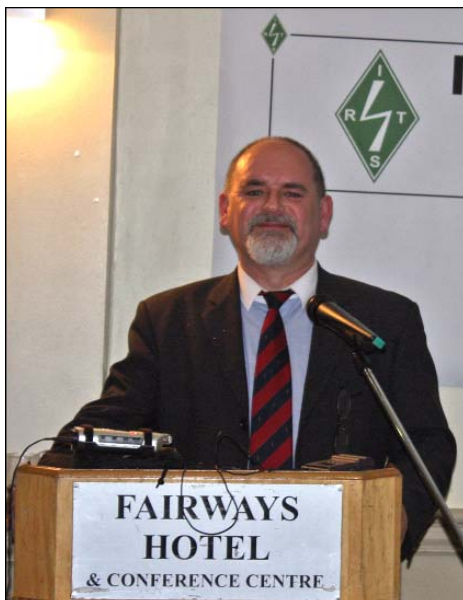


Brendan EI3GV

did everything required of them to make the whole weekend a great experience.

It's a big act to follow.

Looking forward to Athlone next year.



Thos EI2JD, Chairman of Dundalk ARS at the annual dinner.



Dave EI6AL and Paul EI5DI discussing remote operation



Brian EU8IU receiving the IRTS IOTA trophy from IRTS President Seamus EI8BP on behalf of EJ3Z.



Doug EI2CN with XYL Ann



Tom Fay EI6K winner of the first prize in the raffle with Seamus EI3KE



John EI7BA being presented with the President's Cup by Paul Martin EI2CA in acknowledgement of his huge contribution to the hobby in many areas over the years.



Ger EI4GXB, Dave EI9FBB, Tom EI9CJ



Shauna Baynes EI1588 being presented with the Lough Boffin Shield by Seamus EI8BP as the leading SWL in the 80m Winter Counties Contest.



Sean EI4IP being presented with his 2m Counties Trophy by Seamus EI8BP



Members of the Mayo Radio Experimenters Network with IRTS President Seamus EI8BP and the trophies they collected at the 2012 AGM in Dundalk

All AGM pictures courtesy of Thos EI2JD and Padraic EI9JA

Limerick Radio Club Presentation to EI9GAB



Dave Maxwell EI9GBB, Tom O'Sullivan EI3AL, Brendan McNamara EI9GHB, Ger McNamara EI4GXB (Club Secretary), Krzysztof Jankowski EI9GAB, Simon Kenny EI7ALB (Club Chairman), Gerry Byrnes EI3JU, Liam Rainford EI7DSB, Paddy Smith EI8GY, Liam Mangan EI4GB, Tony Condon EI2AW (Club Treasurer), Alan Cronin EI8EM, Brian Toner EI9AL, Sean Reilly EI2DD, Kieran Smalle SWL, Tom O'Brien EI5CA, Mike Kingston EI2IX, Maurice Dunworth EI3JF.

Pictured above are members of Limerick Radio Club on the occasion of a presentation to Krzysztof EI9GAB who is moving from Limerick to the USA. Here is Krzysztof's story in his own words:-

I got interested in Amateur Radio a long time ago, but didn't have a chance to get the license. My dad used to be home brewing electronic circuits from various Polish, Russian and German radio-electronic magazines (others were not easily available on the market those days) and he showed me how to make PCBs and solder components.

But back then (late '80, early '90) radio magazines showed how to build receivers only (I'm sure there was a political reason for that), so we ended up home brewing mostly short wave receivers. Have to say first few constructions were very disappointing, I think we didn't appreciate the importance of good antennas...

We also have a neighbour in the same building block - our good friend. He is a very unfortunate person, but yet very strong and proactive. As a child in early '50s he played with an misfire bomb, and in result lost his left arm and fingers from right one. Yet, he was the only person on our entire street who could fix our black-and-white and colour tube and transistor based TV sets.

Soldering was not a problem for him whatsoever and he wasn't afraid of sparks

from high-voltage CRT transformers either:)

It was him who showed me an old Russian radio station, and let me listen to a few QSOs.

That sort of directed my interests towards electronics, and in '89 I ended up in "Radio and Television" electronic secondary school and later on in Technical University of Wroclaw where in '99 I got my MSc in EE.

My first arrival to Ireland happened in 2000, but after less than two years we came back home.

After another two years in 2004 we arrived back in Dublin where I spent 2 years working in a startup SW company.

In 2006 I got hired by Intel Shannon and moved to Limerick.

Three years later I joined Limerick Radio Club kindly invited to the first club meeting by Alan Cronin EI8EM.

I attended license theory classes there and in July 2010 I passed the exam and got my own brand new callsign EI9GAB. Ger McNamara EI4GXB helped me to organise my first rig TS-430S and Gerry Byrnes EI3JU showed me how to properly tune it to my half size home grown G5RV.

After a few corrections of my antenna thanks to miniVNA borrowed from Simon Kenny EI7ALB, I was ready to make the first QSO.

It happened on the 21st of August 2010,

at 40m with DA2010LH - Special Event Call Lighthouse/Lightship weekend 2010. I was scared, and happy at the same time. Finally got it!

Right now after 8 years I'm about to leave Ireland (again!). Me and family are moving from Limerick to Folsom in California US, where I hope to continue this wonderful hobby.

Raffle Winners at the Limerick Rally

Watson Wireless Weather Station
Donated by Gary O'Hanlon
South East Communications,
Winner - Roy Stewart.

BHI DSPKR
Donated by Graham Somerville
BHI UK,
Winner - Brendan Kilmartin EI0CZ

**AirVenture Flight Simulator
Family Coupon**
Donated by Eddie Ryan of AirVenture
Winner - Roland E Hall EI6CZ

28A 12V Power Supply
Donated by Raymond Long
Long Communications
Winner - Stephen Boyd.

Limerick Radio Club extends their sincere thanks to all traders and visitors who supported the Rally.

Lough Erne Rally Thanks – Sunday 1 April 2012

Many thanks from Lough Erne Amateur Radio Club to the 300 involved in our thirty first rally at SHARE - visitors there to trade or display, make and meet friends, and club members helping,

An array of trade and display stands suited every amateur and experimenter's interest and pocket, from Ireland, north and south, and Britain. The bring-and-buy was very busy. There was praise for SHARE's big Arena, Ireland's largest rally space, for the good lunch at very reasonable cost and from Traders served free tea and sandwiches before doors opened.

RSGB President, Dave Wilson M00BW was particularly welcome amid current debate on amateur radio's future. He later emailed - *'many thanks, I really enjoyed the rally, I spoke to lots of interesting people, many who are passionate about the hobby which is great'*.

The RSGB President also presented Club congratulation certificates for recent license exam successes. The picture above shows Dave M00BW and Mark 2I0MUL, with Billy 2I0ETB, Tom MI6UTV (age 13) and Brian MI0TGO behind. Others congratulated were Gabriel 2I0WGL, Willie 2I0XAN, Tommy MI0RVH, Raymond MI0RMD, Jonathan MI0PPW and Iain MI0IIG.

The Old Timers President, Eric Prince G3KPU made a surprise visit to support Dave G3JKB who had brought the RAOTA display over from Lincolnshire. (Jimmy Lappin GI0OND later took it to the IRTS AGM Rally). Assisting our youngest member, Gemma MI6GDN, Eric made an eightieth birthday presentation to Bob Corrigan MI6RAX, senior member LEARC.

Séamus McCague EI8BP was there, one of many from the Republic, and all very welcome at a rally that has long been the major north-south meeting place for radio amateurs and experimenters. Hearty congratulations to Séamus, later elected IRTS President at the AGM



Lough Erne ARC is proud of its 31 year-old rally. SHARE is an excellent venue. The rally makes hard but enjoyable work for a big team. It attracts the top traders, and smaller and is a good place to meet interesting amateurs and to welcome new recruits. There is a good range of Trade stands and the Bring and Buy is always busy – particularly so this year.

LEARC rally policy also is to help promote other amateur radio organisations with free display space - RSGB, IRTS, RAOTA, RAIBC the charity working for radio amateurs with disabilities, Echolink Ireland, for examples and other clubs like West Tyrone ARC, recruiting for its HamCom event on 16 June, and Mayo REN, whose eleventh great rally is on 18th November.

So, thanks again from Lough Erne Amateur Radio Club. See you all next April at our thirty second rally in the big SHARE arena, which is booked for Sunday 7th April 2013. Keep in touch meantime, visit our web-site www.learc.eu

73,
Michael MI5MTC
Secretary, Lough Erne ARC



Manning the JBT Trading stand were Melvyn and Jim Bob



David Kyle, selling radio kit to help fund another international motor bike trip, with Herbie Gi0JPO at the Lough Erne rally's busy bring and buy.

Irish Radio Transmitters Society
Treasurer's Report for the Year to 31st December 2011 to the Annual General Meeting
Fairways Hotel, Dundalk - 22nd April 2012

I have pleasure in presenting the Accounts for the year 2011 for approval.

The Income and Expenditure Account shows a deficit of €949. This is a slightly better outturn than the 2010 figure but it hides what appears to be a significant deterioration in the Society's finances. The principal item on the Income side - Subscriptions - is down by some €1,000, driven by a decline in membership and increasing numbers claiming Concessionary status. Advertising and Exam Fee incomes also show a decline.

On the Expenditure side total outgoings were contained, although an unplanned benefit was achieved when only five issues of Echo Ireland were produced. In addition, some once-off expenditure in 2010 was not repeated in 2011.

I believe that in 2012, the Society will continue to experience a decline in its income on the one hand while facing significant cost pressures on the other. The in-coming Committee will need to address this situation as a matter of priority.

The deficit of €949 has been transferred to the General Reserve Fund which now stands at a figure of €45,284. This balance ensures that the Society remains in a strong financial position. Accounting surpluses achieved over a number of years were retained within the Society to the extent that we are solvent - for the moment at least. However, I would caution against complacency, and recommend prudence to the extent that the Society pays its way on a year to year basis.

Members who pay their subscriptions on time make the Treasurer's job easier. IRTS members on the whole are very good at making prompt payments, hence avoiding those extra renewal notices. I must also acknowledge the back-up I continue to receive from Joe Ryan EI7GY and Seán Nolan EI7CD who are constantly available with support and advice and are ever-ready to sign the cheques!

Finally, my thanks to the long suffering Auditors, Brendan de hÓra EI3GV and Brendan Lynch EI6GA who take great care to ensure that the member's interests are protected.

Signed:

Seán Donelan EI4GK
Treasurer

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2011

	2010	2011
Fixed Assets		
Equipment	Nil	Nil
Prize Bonds	£89	€89
Shares – Irish Life and Permanent plc.	£754	€754
Current Assets		
Stock for Re-sale	€1,258	€1,050
Cash on Deposit	€43,798	€44,789
Cash at Bank	€11,181	€6,963
	<u>€56,417</u>	<u>€52,802</u>
Total Assets	€57,260	€53,645
Liabilities	Nil	Nil
<u>Surplus of Assets over Liabilities</u>	<u>€57,260</u>	<u>€53,645</u>
	=====	=====
Represented by:		
General Reserve	€46,233	€45,284
Call Book Reserve	€0	€1,000
IARU Conference Reserve	€6,038	€2,372
John O'Riordan Car Fund	€4,989	€4,989
	<u>€57,260</u>	<u>€53,645</u>
	=====	=====

Signed: *Seán Donelan EI4GK, Hon. Treasurer*

Irish Radio Transmitters Society

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year to 31st December 2011

Income	2010	2011
Subscriptions	24,956	23926
Donations	80	5
Advertising	1,481	875
Book Sales	-1,022	-1,081
CD Rom Sales	135	46
Investments & Bank Interest	499	810
Theory & Morse Test	1,295	1,054
Less Expenses	95	143
Total Income	27,329	25492

Expenditure

Newsletter		
Printing	9,385	8,044
Postage/Delivery	5,437	14,822
Callbook (accrual)	0	1,000
Postage & Telephone	1,233	827
QSL Service Outgoing (Postage etc.)	600	1,400
QSL Service Incoming (Postage etc.)	820	1,740
Stationery & Admin.	819	846
Radio News	0	0
Insurance	669	669
Committee Meetings	1,301	1,239
AGM Costs	765	793
IARU Dues	924	1,018
Licence Fees	260	230
IARU Conference Reserve	1,600	1,250
Bank Charges	574	734
Trophies etc.	437	707
Website Costs	305	297
Friedrichshafen Hamfest	139	0
Donations	459	700
STEPS	942	0
ITU Dinner (Cork)	1590	0
ComReg Lunch	241	0
Miscellaneous Costs	99	351
Total Expenditure	28,599	26,441
Defecit for Year	(1,270)	(949)

Irish Radio Transmitters Society

Notes on, and forming part of the Accounts for the Year ended 31st December 2011

1. Income

Subscriptions and Income received during the year were credited to the Income and Expenditure Account. Subscriptions covering any period after 31st December 2010 were not treated as prepaid. No provision was made for Subscriptions in arrears.

2. General Reserve

Balance as at 1 st January 2011	€46,233
Less Defecit for year 2011	€949
Balance as at 31 st December 2011	€45,284

3 IARU Conference Reserve

Balance on 1 st January 2011	€6,038
Less Expenditure	€4,916
Transfer from Income and Expenditure Account	€1,250
Balance on 31 st December 2011	€2,372

4 John O'Riordan Car Fund

Balance on January 1st 2011	€4,989
Balance on December 31st 2011	€4,989

5. Shares – Irish Life and Permanent plc

Shares in Irish Life and Permanent plc are shown in the Balance Sheet at the issue price of €754. The Market Value of these shares on 23rd March 2011 was €37.00

6 Cash on Deposit

Balance on January 1st 2011	€43,978
Balance on December 31st 2011	€44,789

7 Equipment

All equipment in the ownership of the Society has been fully depreciated.

Auditors Report for year ended December 31st 2011

We, the undersigned, acting as Honorary Auditors of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society, have compared the foregoing Income and Expenditure Account, Balance Sheet and Notes thereon, with the books and vouchers of the Society and certify that they are correct and in accordance with them.

Signed:

Brendan M. de hÓra EO3GV

Brendan Lynch EI6GA

April 18th 2012



Committee Report to the 80th Annual General Meeting of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society Fairways Hotel, Dundalk. 22nd April 2012

Committee Meetings

Seven Committee meetings were held during the year.

Membership

72 members joined or re-joined the society during 2011 but about the same number did not renew their membership during the year.

At the year end we had 969 members, which is a reduction of just 4 on the number 12 months previously.

One of the trends we noted during the year was a fall-off in the number of Short Wave Listeners joining the society.

It is not entirely clear what caused this change, but one contributory factor is perhaps the reduction in the number of radio theory classes available to prospective radio amateurs.

ComReg

The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) is the statutory authority responsible for all licensing functions (other than those relating to Television) under the relevant legislation. Regular contact is maintained with ComReg by the Society. At least one meeting is held annually with ComReg to discuss matters concerning amateur radio.

Telephone, e-mail and written contacts are used to resolve issues that may arise from time to time and a good working relationship exists between the Society and the Licensing and Frequency Management sections of the Commission. The following are the main issues that arose with ComReg during the year:

Spectrum Strategy

In April 2011, ComReg published a consultation paper entitled 'Review of the Period 2008-2010 & Proposed Strategy for Managing the Radio Spectrum 2011-2013' (ComReg Document 11/28). IRTS submitted a response to this document on 23 May 2011.

In November 2011, ComReg published its Spectrum Management Strategy for 2011-2013 in Document 11/89.

Of the five matters which IRTS sought to

have included in the strategy the following three were included:

Consider the allocation to the amateur service of three further channels in the 5 MHz band on a secondary basis following consultation with current users
Consider an increase in the power permitted on the 10 MHz band following consultation with current users

Implementation of the European Common Allocations (ECA) footnote EU17 in the next revision of the National Table of Frequency Allocations

The ECA footnote states:

"EU17 In the sub-bands 3400-3410 MHz, 5660-5670 MHz, 10.36-10.37 GHz, 10.45-10.46 GHz the amateur service operates on a secondary basis. In making assignments to other services, CEPT administrations are requested wherever possible to maintain these sub-bands in such a way as to facilitate the reception of amateur emissions with minimal flux densities."

In addition to the above items we also sought the extension of the 70 MHz band to 70.0-70.5 MHz (70.124-70.450 at present) as well as the upgrading of the segment 50.0-50.1 MHz to amateur primary. Although these two items are not included in the spectrum strategy up to 2013 they continue to be objectives that the Society will pursue with ComReg. On the release of spectrum in the 2300-2400 MHz band all that is mentioned in the Spectrum Strategy is that it is to be considered following CEPT/EU harmonisation.

The ComReg response to consultations on this band some time back in Document 09/76 indicated that amateur secondary status on the band will not change and that the bottom 30 MHz, which is of importance to the amateur service, will be reserved for Dáil TV and the rural telephone service.

On smart metering, the strategy document indicates that EU measures which are now to be transposed into National law require that 80% of houses have

smart metering by 2020.

No decision has been taken on the communications solution to be adopted for smart metering in this country.

The Society submission included a lengthy section on the potential for harmful interference to HF and VHF from Power Line Telecommunications (PLT) and Power Line Adaptors (PLAs)

Meeting with ComReg

This meeting took place on 27 April with the following outcome:

500 kHz:

It was reaffirmed that ComReg was supportive of a worldwide secondary allocation to the amateur service in the region of 500 kHz.

Contest Power:

Following on previous discussions ComReg agreed to allow all stations to use increased power for specified international HF and VHF contests. The power levels permitted are 1500 watts and 1000 watts for HF and VHF contests respectively.

The list of the approved contests is on the ComReg website.

Extension of the 70 MHz band:

The extension of the band to 70.0-70.5 MHz was discussed and the Society was requested to include this in its response to the Spectrum Management document mentioned above.

Lapsed call Signs:

We again failed to make any progress on the re-issue of lapsed calls.

ComReg seem to have firmly decided against this and pointed to the 'amnesty' in this matter that was granted and extended prior to the introduction of the lifetime licence.

Duration and Fee for 5 MHz Licences:

The Society sought to have a five year validity for the 5 MHz licences. This was refused on the basis that there are a significant number of temporary one year licences in other areas which are all of

one year's duration at a fee of €30. An exception for the amateur service would not be possible.

Amateur Station Licence Examination Agreement and Examination Format

Consultations were concluded with ComReg on the renewal of the agreement, originally concluded in 2005, under which IRTS is responsible for administering the examination for the Amateur Station Licence. The renewed agreement will run for five years up to 2016.

In the course of these consultations, ComReg accepted proposals from the IRTS Examinations Committee for a revised examination format. Effective from 1 January 2012, the examination consists of a multiple choice question paper of sixty questions arranged in two thirty question sections on Amateur Radio Regulations and Related Topics and Radio Theory and Related Topics respectively. The overall pass mark is retained at 60% and a pass is required in each of the two main sections of the paper.

The Syllabus has been adjusted to conform to the revised arrangement of the examination sections and is available on the Society's website together with a new sample paper in the revised format.

The CD Course Guide has also been completely revised to conform to the adjusted syllabus and the revised arrangement of examination sections. The CD also includes the Syllabus, Sample Paper, Regulatory and other useful information.

500 kHz Licence

The Test Licence for 500 kHz was extended for a further year to 2 June 2012. This licence was in support of the IARU campaign to secure a worldwide secondary allocation to the amateur service in the region of 500 kHz.

International Amateur Radio Union

At international level, National Societies throughout the world work together for the overall good of Amateur Radio under

the auspices of a representative democracy, the International Amateur Radio Union – IARU.

It is through the work of the IARU that radio amateurs are able to devise agreed objectives and develop a unified strategy to seek to achieve them in the run up to World Radio Conferences of the ITU. This is how the improvements at 7 MHz, from which we are now benefiting, were achieved at WRC '03 and an MF allocation has been achieved at the recent WRC -12 (472-479 kHz).

A small part of each member's annual subscription goes to help fund the work of the IARU. It behoves all who have the best interests of amateur radio at heart to join their National Society and contribute to and support the work of the IARU. Being a paid up member of your national Society is the only way you can give practical support to the work of the Union and so help to secure the future of amateur radio.

Like any other Union, the IARU works for the good of its members – the radio amateurs of the world. For many years now the Society had maintained a designated fund to allow the IRTS to be represented by two delegates at the three yearly Conferences of Region 1 IARU and a small part of the subscription income of the society is lodged to this fund each year.

IARU Conference

The 22nd General Conference of IARU Region 1 was held in August last in Sun City, South Africa. The Society was represented by Séamus McCague EI8BP, Vice President and Ger McNamara EI4GXB, Hon. Secretary.

IRTS had submitted a paper on transnational remote control operation. The general thrust of this paper was that such operation is not generally regulated at present and should be looked into. The outcome was the following recommendation:

"That the C4 Chairman is mandated to set up a sub-group to examine the question of transnational remote-controlled operation and to establish under what conditions such operation might, if ever, be regulated and to issue its findings in due course."

Rec SC11_04_08

This was a satisfactory outcome when

coupled with the Recommendation about the proper use of CEPT call signs based on the paper submitted by the RSGB. A full report on the Conference was published in Echo Ireland.

WRC-12

IARU Societies throughout the world have been working with their administrations for quite a number of years to secure support for a worldwide secondary MF allocation to the amateur service in the region of 500 kHz.

The Society played its part in this effort with submissions in May 2011 to the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources and ComReg which secured support for the proposal. All of this work finally paid off when at WRC-12 held in January/February last a worldwide secondary allocation of 472-479 kHz was granted to the amateur service. Technically this allocation only becomes available from 1 January 2013 but our understanding is that individual countries, at their discretion, may make allocations before that date.

A further positive outcome from the Conference was that the agenda for WRC-15 is to include an item to give consideration to an amateur allocation at 5 MHz.

Amateur Station Licence Examination

Collaboration between ComReg and IRTS since 2005 on the licence examination has been very successful.

The current agreement under which IRTS is responsible for setting, organising and correcting the examination runs until 2016.

Since the last AGM two examinations have been held in July and October and a total of twenty five candidates sat these examinations.

Since IRTS took over responsibility for administering the examination seven years ago, fourteen examinations have been held and 259 candidates (including repeats) have sat these examinations and 151 have gained the HAREC qualification, a pass rate of 58%.

The first examination in the new two part format will be held on 28 June next.

Radio News

The HF Radio News is running well at

present. The 1200 Sunday news is rotating between Ger EI4GXB in Clonlara, Co. Clare, George EI7GKB in Athlone, Francis EI5GOB in Waterford and Seán EI7CD in Dublin.

The Sunday 40 metre news service is being provided for the present by Seán EI7CD but newsreaders are being sought for this service.

The News is also broadcast by clubs on VHF from various locations throughout the country mainly on Monday and Tuesday evenings.

We wish to particularly thank Aidan Noone EI7JC who continues to produce interesting and informative news scripts week in week out.

Finally we pay tribute to the dedication and commitment of the many newsreaders who give of their time to bring us the Radio News Service throughout the year.

Awards

The society is called on each year to validate a small number of applications by members for awards granted by other IARU Societies.

Interest in the Society's Worked All EI Counties Award (WEIC) seems to have fallen off. This may pick up with the improved propagation on 40 metres. The award has for some time now been issued on the basis of a log extract certified by an officer of a radio club or by two licensed radio amateurs.

This fact and the award generally need to get more publicity to try to stimulate interest

The Society's trophies, which are awarded for contests, construction as well as for services to the Society or to Amateur Radio, will be presented in the course of the AGM.

Public Relations

It is very difficult to obtain opportunities to promote our hobby. This year the Society was delight too be invited to Blanchardstown Garda Station Open Day in September. The AREN MCP was on display manned by John EI7IG, Francis EI5GOB and Paul EI2CA. While there was an attendance of over 500 people at the open day the main interest was from former ROs.

The Society was represented at Rallies both in the Republic and Northern Ireland.

Thanks are due to Pat EI2HX and to Peter EI4HX who give up their time to attend the Rallies. More volunteers are needed to help.

The CQIR Contest provided an opportunity to gain some coverage for amateur radio in Ireland and contact was made with RadCom, QST, NCJ and PW who all provided publicity for the contest.

This year the Society did not take a stand at Friedrichshafen in 2011. With decreasing attendance from EI it was becoming more difficult to arrange appropriate manning for the stand. There are no plans to return in the near future.

In previous years the Society took part in Engineers Week with the Decoding the Code presentations around the country. This has run its course and it is hoped that a new programme can be devised for 2013.

The Society will be involved this coming July with Space Week at St Columba's College, Dublin when there will be an ARISS contact with the ISS

Website

Some time ago a proposal to convert the website to a content management based system. Unfortunately due to family commitments Gerry EI8DRB has had to abandon the project.

The web is maintained on an ongoing basis by Joe EI7GY and Séamus EI8BP. Joe was responsible for the very professional and much-praised makeover of the site at the beginning of the year.

Jim EI4HH continues to provide the RSS alert service. All information sent to newsteam@irts.ie is monitored not only by the radio news team but also by the Echo Ireland team, the Web and RSS team. To strengthen the production of Echo Ireland and relieve the significant pressure on Dave EI4BZ, Freddy EI4GMB has assumed the role of Assistant to the Editor. More volunteers are needed.

Amateur Radio Emergency Network

ARENs year began in April with a Walking Marathon taking place in the Glen of Aherlow. This was a much more

"oversight" operation where we were there simply to assist with communications into difficult areas if required. Two APRS MicroTrak AIO APRS transmitters were used to good effect allowing control to monitor the location of the tail end of the walks.

EI4GXB and EI3FFB made their APRS equipment available for the day and this provided enhanced APRS coverage. During quiet periods, the opportunity was taken to practice message passing skills with the IARU Region 1 Emergency Communications coordinator, Greg Mos-sop, G0DUB.

This event was quickly followed by the Galway Head of the River race, where support was given to the Civil Defence and Order of Malta.

In April members were out for the Con-nemara Marathon which was a new event taken on board this year. Quite an impression was made due to ARENs ability to penetrate the entirety of course through mountainous terrain. Many of the services were in awe at the ease of communications between our HF stations throughout the whole area.

May returned to Galway, where AREN members once again were out supporting Civil Defence for the Croi Cycle Race.

June saw activity on the water in Galway. In Galway members were out to assist at the Galway regatta, with some prospective members were shown the ropes on the day.

July brought AREN to Dunmore East in Waterford for the Tall Ships Parade of Sail. AREN was asked to be available should there be an incident where the flexibility of Amateur Radio could be used to get communications into and out of a difficult area. The weather was fantastic for the day and a great view of the ships was available from the Mobile Command Post.

The same weekend, members were out assisting at the Castlebar International 4 Day walking festival.

August began with the Galway Walking Club Marathon, as this event takes place in areas with little or no mobile phone coverage, AREN operators were very busy on this event passing traffic.

Next up was the Burren Walk where AREN operators and good communications between checkpoints are pivotal to the success of the event. Finally AREN operators in Waterford were out assisting the Waterford County Civil Defence in the Sean Kelly Tour. APRS proved very useful in keeping track of the tail of each of the three separate courses that were active simultaneously.

Finally, in September, AREN was asked to participate in an Open Day at Blanchardstown Garda station by John Kelly, EI4L. It was interesting to see other services capabilities. Paul, EI2CA, plugged in a key and operated EI0RTS for a while, before the ATU in the transceiver decided it had enough.

Throughout 2011, approximately 400 hours were directly spent by members on AREN activities. This does not include the time spent preparing for events or indeed training. Many thanks to all members for donating their time and expertise to public service.

EMC

During the past 12 months a number of individual members have made contact with the EMC officer with regard to interference to HF and VHF reception. This would appear to be the primary EMC issue facing Experimenters today. In all cases advice was given on how to locate the source and some suggestions were made based on probable causes how the issues might be addressed. Two cases this year involved suspected power-line noise, in one of these cases the actual cause turned out to be a switched mode power supply within the affected amateur's home. The ESB have to date demonstrated willingness to resolve issues however it is important to first ascertain beyond reasonable doubt that the interference source is ESB property before involving the ESB in the resolution process.

One other case of note this year involved the control panel of a security system fitted to the home of a neighbor of a radio amateur. I am pleased to report that with some guidance the alarm installer worked with the affected amateur and the issue

was resolved.

I would appeal to the members to report back on how their EMC issues were resolved, we can all learn from the outcomes of others.

There are reports from the DARC of some LED lighting systems producing very high levels of interference to HF. There is some video evidence of this issue as demonstrated by Thilo DL9KCE on youtube. It is worth noting that some LED lighting systems are completely RF quiet and I would advise any amateurs purchasing these devices to test carefully to ensure that they do not cause interference issues.

Interfering devices can be returned to the supplier and I would be interested in hearing of any systems causing undue interference.

Devices placed on sale within the EU or imported into the EU must conform to the EMC directive (Directive 2004/108/EC) which has been transposed into Irish law. Even where a device is shown to comply with all applicable standards the EMC directive requires that the supplier or importer of a device has to take action should a device cause undue interference to radio users .

As radio amateurs we have the same entitlements to protection as any other licensed radio user or service.

It is important to note that in most cases Liability for resolving the issues rests with the manufacturer or the Supplier of the device, not with the owner of the device.

IARU Monitoring Service

Ger McNamara EI4GXB continues to represent the society on the IARU Monitoring System. During the year illegal church broadcasts on the 10m band have been identified and reported to ComReg for investigation. The relationship with ComReg continues to be of a very high standard.

QSL Service

In these days of electronics for all aspects of ham radio, even an electronic QSL card, it is nice to see so many paper QSL cards going through both the incoming and outgoing bureau.

The inward QSL bureau is ran by a small and dedicated group of individuals from all over the country.

When the cards arrive to the P.O. Box, Michael EI2CL, sort out the cards that arrive into the various numbers for the sub-managers.

Pat EI2HX picks them a couple of days before the regular IRTS. committee meetings and then distributes them to the sub-managers present at the meeting.

Sub managers that are unable to attend the meeting are sent their batch of QSL cards by post in the days following the meeting and when they get the cards they are sorted and sent to the members.

The sub-managers send the cards out to members at least 6 times a year, so you will get your cards as soon as possible. Some members have stated that they "have not received a card in ages", please note that if you use the QSL bureau it could take at least 6 months for a QSL card to get to you for that QSO you had. When you post the card to the outgoing department it is then sent to that Countries QSL Bureau, on to the sub-manager and finally to the station you worked and then the reverse applies for his QSL card to get to you.

Members are also asked to let their previous sub manager know if they have changed their callsign so we can redirect your cards from your old callsign. Special event stations should of course always notify the appropriate sub-manager of the QSL details.

It is noticed that QSL cards for contacts for the digital modes have increased.

I would like to thank the dedicated crew of sub managers again for giving up their time in doing this very important task in one of the society's most important jobs, to give you your QSL cards.

The details of your QSL sub manager are always found on page 2 of Echo Ireland.

Publications

Five issues of Echo Ireland were produced and the new colour pages have been warmly welcomed.

Many thanks to editor Dave Moore EI4BZ, for the extremely hard work he puts in to ensure Echo Ireland is produced to a very high standard. Many thanks are also due to all the contributors.

EJ0PL

Little Saltee Island EU-103

April 2012

“EU-103 - Very rare. Work it now!!!”

By Ark Szpunar EI9KC

The above comment appeared on the Cluster on April 13th shortly after EJ0PL went on the air from Little Saltee Island. The occasion was the planned activation of the Saltees as foretold in my piece in December 2011 Echo Ireland.

Yes, I did write “the Saltees in April 2012”. This proved easier said than done. The islands are uninhabited, to all intents and purposes, they have no piers, jetties or landing places. The owner of the Great Saltee does not permit overnight stays and maybe April is not the best time of year to spend under canvas.

We made contact with the members of the EJ4F group who activated the Little Saltee for IOTA in 2004. They kindly put us in touch with the owner of the island and the boatman who was to provide transport. The owner was very gracious and readily granted us permission to land and remain for the week-end, while the boatman warned us about the difficult landing conditions.

This last problem was resolved by providing each member of the team with a pair of waders - as used by the Polish army. This last precaution meant that everybody reached the shore completely dry!!!

The team consisted of Adam EI5JQ, Ark EI9KC, Jacek SP7DPJ, Jurek SP7JT, Michal EI3KG, Robert EI6KD, Seán EI4GK and SWL Damian.

Having moved all the equipment ashore, we set about building the antennas and pitching the tents. By 1430 UTC the first station was on the air and by 1800 UTC we had three stations operating.

Antennas consisted of two Hex Beams, six inverted Vs for 80, 40, and 30 meters and a Vertical.

Two generators provided power and the rigs were IC756 PRO2, TS590 and TS480HX.

The pile-ups over the next three days were monstrous. The fact that the island had not been activated for a number of years, allied to a week-end with no major contests meant that EJ0PL was the best spotted station on the cluster.



By close-down on Sunday afternoon there were more than 5,770 QSOs in the log (4,292 SSB, 1,291 CW and 186 Digi). The CW total was particularly satisfactory since two of our CW operators were not very experienced.

A story about an island activation is never complete without reference to the weather. Friday was sunny, cool and a bit windy - almost ideal for antenna building and giving no indication of what was to come.

On Friday night the temperature fell to 0 degrees C. and the wind rose to near gale force. **IT WAS COLD** and we asked ourselves whose idea was it to sleep in tents on an Irish island in the middle of April!!

Saturday brought strong winds and, for a time, torrential rainfall. The tents suffered some damage but all the antennas remained in place. As the wind abated on Sunday, the dismantling and packing of the station was able to proceed normally before the arrival of the boatman to return the team and its equipment to Kilmore Quay.

During the weekend we all took the opportunity to acquaint ourselves with the island and its animal and bird population. The grazing is shared by a small herd of Kerry cattle (including a rather fierce-looking bull), a large herd of an unusual breed of sheep and a deer population that remained out of sight. Seabirds in their thousands filled the sky and the rocks and, as it was breeding season, nests were everywhere. Rabbits, too, had pockmarked the ground with their burrows.

Where to next for EJ0PL?

Despite our plan to return to the Blaskets for IOTA 2012, our good experience on Little Saltee brought about a change of mind. We have sought and received permission to return to Little Saltee for IOTA, so we look forward to renewing our acquaintance with the island in July 2012.

Finally, we must express our thanks to the Island's owner who was most helpful and gracious to us and expressed a lively interest in what we were doing.



EI80IRTS at Skerries Mills

On the weekend of the 12th and 13th of May, Skerries radio club (EI2NCR) were setting up for their usual Mills on the Air weekend, but this time the club was delighted to be able to use the I.R.T.S. special anniversary callsign EI80IRTS for the Mills on the air weekend.

The club members started to arrive at 9:00 on the Saturday and work soon began to assemble the base and the telescopic mast (35ft), with the mast at its full height the full size G5RV was attached and raised by using the lanyard, the ends of the wire aerial were also raised up by 20 ft so the aerial was not quite a long wire but more a inverted V in appearance.

The attention was then turned to the shack end of the station with the clubs Kenwood TS570D being the main radio with one of our members Icom 737 as the backup.

With the Mill having its own mains power it was a great saving in not having to bring a generator for the power, and all that comes with it to the site.

The station was on air at around 10:30 and after some listening around, 7 MHz was the band chosen to start with.

The 40m band was very noisy and the situation was also not helped by the several generators used at the nearby Farmers market only a couple of hundred meters away from the Mill.

The EI80IRTS callsign was in great demand and the stations worked were delighted to get a double whammy as EI80IRTS was not only the I.R.T.S. special anniversary callsign but a Mill station as well.

The Club started by spinning around the band looking for other Mill stations for the first part of the day and got many a UK and Dutch mills and whilst we could hear stations working fellow Irish Mills we could not hear them at all.

We had to finish by 1800 as we were not allowed to stay over night at the Mills due to the usual terms and conditions (health, safety and insurance) but as some of the members lived under the shadow of the Mill it was a safe bet that a soft bed was preferred to a stony floor and having to put up with some of the Mills other guests (see photo on right)



When the club members arrived bright and early on Sunday they found that the wind from Saturday had not only gotten stronger but had also changed direction. The first job was to move the stay rope attached to the top of the mast as the pull from the other side of the mast was so great from the wind acting on the wire and ropes that the mast was in danger of buckling under the force of the wind. In fact the base had already started to lift slightly when it was hit by some



of the strong gusts.

With that problem sorted out, the business of working some more Mill stations was the order of the day.

Having got several more Mills we decided to put a few calls out on a spot frequency and had many stations calling back to us.

Again we worked more UK and Dutch Mills and most of the rest of Europe including fellow Irish Mill, EI2EWN.

In the photos above and below you can see some of the Skerries Club members and the Mill.

All too soon it was time to shut the station down.

It seemed that it was easier to take everything down and pack the gear away for the next time than setting up.

Having access to such a good site it will not be to long before we will be back in Skerries Mill again, as it is a shame to only use it once a year.

We would like to thank those that dropped into the Mill over the weekend, and to also thank the manager and staff of the Skerries Mill Complex for all the help and kindness they showed us.

Best 73.

Skerries Radio Club.





Excerpts from the HX files

A Look at ATV with Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX - Excerpt 021

Hello and welcome to extract 021 of the HX Files.

After making a few transceivers for use at home or portable, I was wondering what to make next?

I was wondering what else would be of use, maybe a beam or a vertical aerial, either one of them would be handy to have in the spares department. Building the vertical aerial which typically is a slot type would involve some tools that I do not have in my workshop, so I decided that a beam it was is to be.

While looking for designs of beams on the net I noticed that some of them were like the ones I have myself but only bigger. (That was not the only thing bigger than I have that I saw on the net - towers, cars and of course an aerial). Some of the aerial designs were rather complicated to try as a first time project, but deciding on the designs that were like my own was not a hard choice to make so I had a look at the ones I use and decided to extend a couple of them.



The conventional type of beam was not too bad to make as most of the basic parts were in stock.

Originally it was a 35 element Tonna and now it is a 42 element instead.

I already have a 55 element at my home location but that aerial has two support arms underneath it.

I did not go to that trouble as I had not got enough of the tubing for the supporting framework.

Working on that aerial was not too bad as a piece of box tubing the same size was in stock as was some of the standoff brackets for the elements.

A couple of copper brazing rods were bought and a constructing we went.

Having a ready made aerial was great as I could copy the extra piece of the beam that was to be attached to the 35 element aerial.

The elements were cut using a small hacksaw with the rod being held in a vice, the elements were not all the same length but there were a few of each that were the same size, and again having something to copy from was very handy but I still had to make sure that my markings and cuttings were exact.

With that job done I had only to place the elements into their standoff brackets and make sure that the same amount of element was visible either side of the bracket. The new standoff brackets were bought at a rally some time ago for spares just in case some of the original ones were damaged.

The brackets simply just clicked onto the boom and the original brackets had a small bump on them that fitted into a dimple on the boom which gave them the correct distance apart.

The new ones had no bump on them and neither was there any dimples on the new section of boom but they were a tighter fit and seemed to offer a lot of resistance when I tried to move them.

The distance of the extra elements were all the same as only the first few on the original beam had a different gap so I made a spacer out of a scrap piece of angle wood to match the gap between the elements.

The other beam was originally a 15 element loop aerial, and just like the other aerial, from element 4th to the last one were the same distance apart and the same diameter of loop.

Copying the loops meant using some sort of a former to wrap the wire around to make the loops.

As luck would have it I had a large diameter hole cutter (Photo 1) that was the same size as the loop and that left only the choice of material to make the loop elements out of to be decided.

After a quick look through the store bunnies I found some rods and whips (I found them beside the fluffy handcuffs but that's another story) that I could use for something to make the loops with. I was thinking of the odd lengths from some off-cuts of old and scrapped aerials I had and also thought of brazing/welding

rods and even the loop of metal that is on the back of the hub caps found on some cars.

Keep an eye on the side of the road, as the one or two pot holes that are around the country have the habit of removing the odd hub cap, this wire is can also be used but it is rather rigid and springy to bend around the loop former and some of them are of a different gauge of metal.

The other lengths of rods and whips were also found to be rather stiff to work with and a bit springy, after a couple of close calls when the rods slipped from my hands and in one case hit the safety glasses I had on, it was then decided that the construction could wait and it was time to have a cup of tea or two and think of a plan B. During the tea drinking I was looking for something else and thought of some electrical cable that comes in single strand, but of all the different cables I had none were single strand.

A visit to Tony EI6IK and he had what I needed so after removing the outer plastic covering I used the electrical cable and wound it around the former.

It started to look like a spring and after enough coils were wound on it the wire was cut and I had the loops that I needed for the job also seen in Photo 1.



Photo 2 shows some of the loops as each loop were cut off the spring like winding and the ends will be tidied up with a file. With the loops formed you then have to join the ends, this was done by brazing them together; the brazing was done for me by Kevin EI5JG. The two ends of the loop were joined together at the same time in the slot of a brass screw that a screwdriver slot in them.

As mentioned earlier this job was extending the length of the aerial and as the diameter of each element and their spac-



3

ing was the same between each loop from the 5th to the 101st, whilst the strength of the new loops may not be the same as the original elements but they are good enough as they would be only used in a portable setup.

A template was made that would help with marking and drilling the holes (photo 3). The template was made from a joiner used in joining kitchen worktops

together, it has 3 holes in it from the manufacture one of these holes can be seen by the square drawn around it, but so far they have not caused any problems.

In photo 4 you may notice the joiner has a right angle on one side and a curve on the other side of it, the curved side will sit perfectly on round boom if I ever have to extend a round boom aerial. The old and the new extension booms



4

are 16mm x 16mm and were joined by some round tubing that was held in place by bolts on the original beam and rivets on the new section.

The bolts can be removed easily both for transporting and for the times that a big aerial is not needed.

The first hole in this template would bolt into the last one of the original holes and the other holes used to line up, and then to mark (with the aide of a centre punch) the new holes onto the new piece of boom, and then the template removed and placed onto the last of the new holes and repeated until all the holes marked out that are needed.

When installing the new elements the head of the bolt that the loop is brazed to can be held carefully by hand and the



5

loop held parallel to the other elements while the retaining nut is tightened.

I was lucky that on the second aerial being modded that a hole cutter I had was the right size.

In Photo 5 you can see both the new elements ready for fitting; since the modded aerials were made I have used them on a few portable events and have noticed no difference in Rx and Tx signals when I compared them to the factory ones of the same size.

And finally, thanks again to Kevin EI5JG for doing the brazing for me, and to Tony EI6IK for the element wire.

May all your signals be P5.

EI2HX



Radio Amateur Old Timers Association in Ireland

With great success at April's Lough Erne and IRTS AGM rallies, the Radio Amateur Old Timer's Association has increased its membership in Ireland by almost 70%.

Dave Simmonds G3JKB, responsible for rally liaison and publicity was invited to set up the RAOTA stand at these rallies to recruit more members in Ireland into an organisation that keeps alive the pioneer spirit and traditions of the past in today's Amateur Radio by means of personal and radio contact. RAOTA also publishes excellent historic and technical publications and quarterly OT News, all written by members.

Dave emailed - *"the trip (from Lincolnshire to Fermanagh) was better than we could have wished in our wildest dreams. I can only thank the members of LEARC, on behalf of RAOTA, for your excellent support, not forgetting all the advertising prior to the rally, which itself was a total success in every respect.*

We were kept busy with friendly visitors to the stand - happily inundated at times. Our President Eric Prince G3KPU came and took part, a special bonus. A lot of publications and copies of the new DVD with 100 issues of OT News were sold."

The picture at Lough Erne rally (top) shows Dave left, Jimmy behind, two new members filling forms and RAOTA President background with Billy GIOVLE, an Antrim Old Timer often heard on IRTS Sunday news reports. RAOTA's 750 membership had included 28 in Ireland. 19 subscriptions paid at the April rallies made a 68 % increase in Irish members.

Jimmy Lappin GI0OND - Mid Ulster ARC - agreed to take the RAOTA stand to the IRTS AGM Rally where a few more subscriptions were paid in Sterling pending arrangements about Euro fees.

For more go to:- www.raota.org or www.learc.eu



Jimmy GI0OND with Danny Campbell GI4NKD at the RAOTA stand at the IRTS AGM Rally in Dundalk.

Online DXCC Application commenced on April 2nd

The ARRL's new Online DXCC tool is now ready to accept applications, allowing hams to supply the data from traditional paper QSLs in a digital form to apply for a new **DXCC award or endorsement**.

Submitting a DXCC application using Online DXCC is easier than making a paper application, saving both time and money.

Using the Online DXCC Application, the user can select the cards that he or she would like to have checked by a card checker and, at his or her convenience, type that data into a form (which can be saved and retrieved at any time until submitted) and make an application for DXCC.

When the application is finished, the participant will be able to print the list of cards and take the list and the cards (in the same order that they are entered into the form) to a card checker who will check the cards, note any changes and send the form to ARRL HQ.

The card checker's job is exactly the same as before, except he or she does not need to collect a payment (unless the participant has worked that out with the card checker), as the client can pay online. Once submitted, DXCC staff can access the file submitted by the client, quickly make any changes noted by the card checker and process the application.

The Online DXCC Application will have rates that are half those of a traditional paper QSL application that is sent to ARRL HQ.

Advantages of submitting your DXCC application using Online DXCC include:

- **Cost:** The **application fees** are lower when submitting a DXCC application through Online DXCC. In particular, the application fee and the extra QSO fee for Online DXCC are half those of a traditional paper application.
- **Accuracy:** Making a DXCC submission with Online DXCC is more accurate than a paper application that is filled out by hand because typographical errors are eliminated (except for the call sign). There will be no data entry errors at ARRL HQ because the contents of an Online DXCC application are transmitted directly to the DXCC system at HQ.
- **Speed:** Making a DXCC submission using Online DXCC speeds up the processing of an application because the information on the DXCC Award Application and the DXCC Record Sheet do not have to be manually entered into the DXCC system by ARRL HQ staff. The more applicants who use this system means there is a smaller backlog of applications and a faster turnaround for all DXCC program participants.
- **Convenience:** The Online DXCC system will save the entered QSL card and application information for future access. You may enter information from your QSLs as you receive them and then submit your cards for checking when you are ready to apply for a DXCC award or endorsement. Cards no longer need to be in hand or mode order.

Keep in mind that QSL cards will still need to be checked if you use the Online DXCC Application, either by a **DXCC Card Checker** or sent to ARRL HQ for checking.

Any radio amateur in the world -- ARRL member or non-member -- may use the Online DXCC Application.

If you are applying for a DXCC award:-

With a US call sign -- you must be an ARRL member. If you are not yet a member, you can **create an Online DXCC account**, begin entering your QSL card information right now and then **join the ARRL** when you are ready to submit your application.

- **With an overseas portable US call sign (like TF/NN1N)** -- you must be an ARRL member.
- **With a non-US call sign** -- you do not need to be a member of ARRL

Travel Pass Rally Trips



Finn EI4GOB from Carlow and Andy EI4ERB from Dublin are pictured here at the Lough Erne rally's very busy bring and buy tables.

They had come up to the rally that morning by bus each using a free travel pass. The Dublin to Donegal, Bus Eireann service departs every two hours from the Busáras. The lads took the handy 9.00 am bus, got off in Derrylin at 11.10 just over the border, then got a lift for the 10 minute drive to SHARE.

With high fuel costs, when planning rallies, we should explore public transport options. Others came to the Erne rally from the Belfast area by bus to Maguiresbridge, then a lift to SHARE (longer than from Derrylin). Billy 2I0ETB has travelled to every rally in Ireland and mostly uses his OAP bus pass from Bushmills in north Antrim. In some cases he stayed overnight.

Looking ahead, there must be rail and bus services that could be used for most rallies. For example, is there a Cork city bus service from the railway station to September's north side rally venue?

Michael MI5MTC

Hamcon

Technology Education Centre
2 Spillers Place
Omagh, BT78 1FA, Co. Tyrone

Saturday June 16th

Lectures/Seminars, Demos, Trade
Stands, National Societies.
Door Prizes, Raffle, Catering

Details from Philip MI0MSO
See gn4oma.blogspot.co.uk

EI DXCC Listings (as at May 23rd 2012)

DXCC Challenge	Phone	160m	216	EI6FR (+3)
2,686 EI7BA (+37)	349 EI7CC	219 EI7BA	176 EI2JD (+15)	
2,113 EI9FBB (+199)	348 EI6S	207 EI3IO	155 EI6IZ	
1,793 EI3IO	344 EI8EM (+5)	128 EI6IZ	146 EI9JF	
1,651 EI6FR (+8)	338 EI2GS	125 EI9FBB (+7)	122 EI6AL (+18)	
1,607 EI2JD (+103)	336 EI7BA	107 EI2JD (+5)	121 EI3IO	
1,601 EI7CC	331 EI8AR		117 EI8IU	
1,321 EI6IZ	329 EI6FR (+1)	80m	109 EI9FVB (New)	
1,018 EI9JF	300 EI8AU	304 EI6S	101 EI3GV	
	295 EI9FBB (+11)	278 EI7BA		
	294 EI3GV	225 EI9FBB (+19)	15m	
	279 EI4GK (+15)	155 EI2JD (+5)	313 EI7BA	
	269 EI8GS (+7)	137 EI3IO	263 EI6FR (+3)	
	269 EI2JD (+8)	133 EI6FR (+1)	251 EI9FBB (+22)	
	241 EI9FVB (+15)	123 EI6IZ	214 EI2JD (+12)	
	230 EI9HX	118 EI4BZ	193 EI3IO	
	225 EI9JF	103 EI8GS (+2)	187 EI4BZ	
	213 EI7GL		181 EI8GS (+1)	
	200 EI6IL	40m	163 EI9E (+21)	
	193 EI4BZ (+2)	299 EI7BA	153 EI9FVB (+29)	
	192 EI4HH (+21)	235 EI9FBB (+16)	152 EI6IZ	
	188 EI2CH	193 EI2JD (+2)	118 EI6AL (New)	
	186 EI7II	191 EI6FR (+3)	118 EI6HB	
	178 EI3HA	180 EI6IZ	110 EI3GV	
	178 EI9E (+16)	177 EI9JF	109 EI7JN	
	177 EI9FE	176 EI3IO	109 EI7GY (New)	
	169 EI8IU	138 EI4BZ (+1)	108 EI8IU	
	149 EI5IF (New)	129 EI8GS (+6)	106 EI1DG	
	142 EI6HB	118 EI9E (+13)	105 EI9JF	
	142 EI9HQ (+13)	117 EI7GL	100 EI2GLB	
	138 EI2GLB			
	131 EI7JZ	30m	12m	
	131 EI5GSB	308 EI7BA	285 EI7BA	
	123 EI6AL (New)	223 EI9FBB (+22)	209 EI9FBB (+37)	
	114 EI4EX	218 EI3IO	133 EI2JD (+27)	
	114 EI5FQB (New)	188 EI6IZ	104 EI6AL (New)	
	105 EI1CS	186 EI6FR (+2)	101 EI6FR (+1)	
	101 EI3IP	167 EI9JF	100 EI3IO	
	101 EI4GNB (New)	117 EI4BZ		
		111 EI2JD (+9)	10m	
		102 EI8IU	279 EI7BA	
			253 EI3IO	
		20m	194 EI9FBB (+37)	
		335 EI7BA	185 EI6FR (+4)	
		314 EI6FR	180 EI2JD (+19)	
		291 EI9FBB (+11)	177 EI4BZ (+8)	
		247 EI3IO	171 EI8GS (+20)	
		246 EI2JD (+12)	144 EI7GL	
		217 EI9JF	138 EI9E (+29)	
		211 EI8GS (+10)	129 EI4GK (+1)	
		193 EI6IZ	124 EI4HH (New)	
		186 EI4BZ	114 EI6AL (New)	
		183 EI9FVB (+22)	111 EI9CJ	
		171 EI7JN	109 EI9FVB (New)	
		156 EI1DG	103 EI3GV	
		144 EI9E (+13)		
		134 EI6HB	6m	
		122 EI8IU	160 EI3IO	
		121 EI3HA	112 EI9FBB (+10)	
		119 EI3GV	111 EI7GL	
		118 EI7GY (+14)	107 EI2JD (+1)	
		112 EI9HQ (+7)	101 EI3EBB	
		109 EI5IF (New)		
		102 EI2GLB	2m	
		102 EI5GSB	110 EI4DQ	
		100 EI6AL (New)		
			See www.arrl.org/dxcc	
		17m		
		325 EI7BA		
		268 EI9FBB (+19)		



John Tait EI7BA



Clifford EI5FQB who recently received his Mixed and Phone DXCC awards

DXCC Single Band Status (23/05/12)

		160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	2
10	EI9FBB	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-
10	EI3IO	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-
10	EI2JD	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-
9	EI7BA	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-
8	EI6FR	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-
7	EI6IZ	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-
6	EI4BZ	-	X	X	X	X	-	X	-	X	-	-
5	EI6AL	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	-	-
5	EI8GS	-	X	X	-	X	-	X	-	X	-	-
5	EI9JF	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-
5	EI9FVB	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	-	-
4	EI3GV	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	-	X	-	-
4	EI8IU	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-
4	EI9E	-	-	X	-	X	-	X	-	X	-	-
3	EI7GL	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	-
2	EI1DG	-	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	-	-
2	EI2GLB	-	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	-	-
2	EI6HB	-	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	-	-
2	EI7GY	-	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	-	-
2	EI9CJ	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	X	-	-
2	EI7JN	-	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	-	-
1	EI3EBB	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-
1	EI3HA	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	EI4DQ	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X
1	EI4GK	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-
1	EI4HH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-
1	EI5GSB	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	EI5IF	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	EI6S	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	EI9HQ	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	EI5IF	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-



Contest Corner

by IRTS Contest Manager Thos Caffrey EI2JD

IRTS Contests.

Apart from taking part in the IRTS contests during the year I also take some time out to listen to others who are in the contests. I started doing this to check the portions of the bands being used especially in the IRTS 80m counties contests.

IRTS 80m County Contest Rules:

4.4 The IARU Region 1 Band Plan should be observed and in addition:

CW contacts should be made only in the recognised CW end of the band.

As this is a local contest, **NO OPERATION** should take place where the Band Plan indicates priority for intercontinental operation.

4.5 CW 3510 – 3560
SSB 3600 – 3650
3700 – 3775

It still amazes me to hear a few stations during each of the 80m contests calling CQ Test between 3.650 and 3.700. Up to now a simple call-in to say please check your frequency readout has worked as the station may have inadvertently turned the dial and on hearing a clear frequency started to call. The odd one has asked for an explanation but do move on.

The reason there are designated portions of the bands for contesting is to leave some portions of the bands for non-contesters. This does not always hold true for the major contests held throughout the year such as the CQWW, WPX etc... where you will find the whole band being utilised.

For our little IRTS 80m counties contests we do not need to take the whole band so please keep in mind your other friends may want to use the band as well.

The RSGB who run the IOTA contest, which is a favourite for EI contesters, have hinted about taking a stronger stance in this regard and may not count (delete) any QSO's found outside the contest preferred sections. Here's hoping others will follow. Well done!!!

Another point I have noticed and that has been brought to my attention through some of your emails involves the use of /P when you are out portable as a single operator or with your club. This of course can be in the 2m, 80m or Field Day contests throughout the year.

Some of you when calling CQ Test SOMETIMES forget to call /P with your call.

As an example I have heard EI2XYZ/P calling CQ TEST and may have put them in my log and later hear them calling as EI2XYZ only. Visa versa I have heard EI2XYZ and worked them only to hear them later as EI2XYZ/P where I have to break there pile up again to clarify whether they are portable or not.

In the past few years when correcting your logs I would have scored such an error as 0 points where the entrant could be losing a vital multiplier county.

Through listening in recent contests I cannot in all good faith score 0 points to anyone found with such an error in their logs (for now).

Contests to plan and look forward to:

IRTS CW Field Day Sat/Sun June 2/3rd

IRTS 80m Counties (Summer)
Sun June 17th

IRTS VHF/UHF Field Day
Sat/Sun July 7/8th

IRTS 2m Counties Sun August 26th

IRTS SSB Field Day Sat/Sun Sept 1/2nd

Look forward to hearing you in the pile ups.

73 de Thos EI2JD

EI7M set New European Record in ARRL 10m Contest 2011

Congratulations to the EI7M East Cork Contest Group crew of John EI8IR, Dave EI4BZ, Neil EI3JE, Dan EI3JZ and Mark EI3KD on setting a new European record in the ARRL 10 Metre Contest held last December.

They ran up 2,667 QSOs with 348 multipliers which gave them a comfortable margin over CR6K and regular rival TM6M in second and third places.

Congratulations also to Oleg EI7KD who achieved a world top ten finish (9th place) in exalted company in the CW Only, High Power Section.

EI Results ARRL 10m 2011

	Score	QSOs	Mults		
EI4CF	279,680	591	190	A	B
EI4DW	182,028	430	154	A	B
EI2KA	104,040	514	102	B	B
EI3CTB	14,520	140	55	B	B
EI9HX	347,060	1,300	134	B	C
EI4II	59,228	237	67	C	A
EI7CC	98,304	387	64	C	B
EI7KD	917,280	1,500	156	C	C
EI7M	2,859,864	2,667	348	D	C
EI9E	1,181,688	1,697	212	D	C
EI9KC	148,764	372	138	D	C

Contest Calendar

All Times UTC

June 2012

02-03	Sat 1500 - Sun 1500	IRTS CW Field Day	CW
16-17	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359	All Asian DX Contest	CW
17	Sun 1400 - Sun 1700	IRTS 80m Summer Counties	CW/SSB
23-24	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	The King of Spain Contest	SSB

July 2012

07-08	Sat 1400 - Sun 1400	IRTS VHF/UHF Field Day	CW/SSB/FM
14-15	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	IARU HF World Championship	CW/SSB
21-22	Sat 1800 - Sat 2100	CQWW VHF Contest	CW/SSB
28-29	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	IOTA Contest	CW/SSB

August 2012

04	Sat 0000 - Sat 2359	European HF Championship	CW/SSB
11-12	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359	Worked All Europe DX Contest	CW
18-19	Sat 0800 - Sun 0800	RDA Contest	CW/SSB
25-26	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	YO DX HF Contest	CW/SSB
26	Sun 1300 - Sun 1500	IRTS 2 Metres Counties Contest	SSB/FM

EI's on EQSL (as at May 19th 2012)

Updates and enquiries to Thos EI2JD at thoscaffrey@hotmail.com

DXCC Confirmed	61	EI4IS	40	EI9O
239 EI7BA (+4)	61	EI9JM	39	EI2JD
204 EI9O (+10)	58	EI9JF	39	EI3IO
201 EI9FBB (+8)	56	EI7BMB	39	EI4GXB (+9)
188 EI3IO	55	EI5HE	39	EI8GS
188 EI7CC (+5)	55	EI6CPB	39	EI9HX
183 EI2JD (+2)	55	EI6GGB	39	EI9KC (New)
182 EI4CF	54	EI7IQ	38	EI1DG
165 EI0CZ	52	EI8H	38	EI7CC (+1)
155 EI1DG (+9)	52	EI8JW (+2)	38	EI7JZ
154 EI7JN	52	EI/DK2AT (+1)	37	EI3GYB
150 EI8GS (+3)	50	EI6AK	37	EI4KE
148 EI9HX	50	EI1509 (+11)	37	EI5IF (+3)
147 EI6IZ	49	EI1429	36	EI2KC
145 EI2KC (+6)	49	EI2FSB	36	EI4HH (New)
144 EI9KC (+18)	48	EI4GMB	36	EI6JK
142 EI9FVB	47	EI3EBB	36	EI8FH (+2)
139 EI6AL	47	EI9GTB	36	EI9FVB (+2)
130 EI9JU	46	EI5DD (+2)	35	EI2GLB
127 EI6HB (+10)	46	EI9GWB	35	EI4GNB
125 EI2GLB	44	EI3GD	33	EI5GM
122 EI8IQ (+14)	43	EI4DIB	33	EI6AL
121 EI7JK (+5)	43	EI5GB (+5)	32	EI0W
117 EI4HH (+8)	43	EI7IS	32	EI3HA
115 EI3GYB	42	EI5IX	32	EI4BZ
114 EI4BZ	41	EI4IR	31	EI5GJB
114 EI4GNB (+7)	39	EI4HX	31	EI6IL
114 EI7JZ (+9)	39	EI6IF	30	EI5GJB
109 EI5GSB (+6)	39	EI7GM	30	EI5GSB
109 EI5IF	37	EI7GBB (+6)	30	EI9HQ (New)
109 EI8FH	35	EI1571		
108 EI3HA (+3)	35	EI3GDB (+8)		Worked Prefixes
108 EI9HQ	35	EI7GEB	1,523	EI4CF (+41)
107 EI0W	35	EI9KB (New)	1,259	EI2JD (+17)
105 EI7DAR	32	EI90GPO	1,246	EI7CC (+43)
105 EI8IU	30	EI7CHB	1,237	EI9JU (+79)
104 EI4GXB	29	EI7GZB	1,182	EI8GS (+47)
103 EI5GM	28	EI4IN	1,160	EI6JK (+28)
102 EI6JK	27	EI9CBB (New)	1,120	EI9FBB (+17)
101 EI2II			1,103	EI7JN (+52)
100 EI5GJB (+1)		Worked All States	1,051	EI0W (+18)
96 EI6IL	50	EI1DG	1,037	EI0CZ (+29)
96 EI9CF (+25)	50	EI2JD	979	EI4GXB (+43)
92 EI7GSB (+5)	50	EI4CF	930	EI3IO (+13)
91 EI3KE (+15)	50	EI8GS	925	EI9HQ (+24)
89 EI7IX (+1)	50	EI9FBB	890	EI7JK (+58)
87 EI4HQ	50	EI9HX	876	EI1DG (+49)
86 EI5GUB	50	EI9JU	871	EI7BA (+42)
86 EI9ES	50	EI9O	831	EI2KC (+51)
82 EI3CTB (+31)	49	EI7JN	788	EI4BZ (+16)
82 EI3GAB	49	EI9HQ	763	EI2GLB (+90)
81 EI8HL (+8)	48	EI2KC (+11)	755	EI9FVB (+36)
80 EI7BFB (+3)	48	EI4GXB	753	EI6AL (+22)
77 EI4KE (+3)	48	EI6HB	751	EI8FH (+24)
77 EI5EV (+3)	48	EI6JK	705	EI4GNB (+48)
76 EI8JR	48	EI9KC (+3)	677	EI0PL (+248)
74 EI3JB (+12)	47	EI3IO	668	EI2II (+12)
74 EI8DL	46	EI0W	665	EI9O (+28)
73 EI9EW	46	EI2GLB	664	EI7GSB (+71)
72 EI5HV (+8)	46	EI4GNB (+5)	664	EI9KC (+84)
71 EI3IS	45	EI0CZ	629	EI5IF (+30)
71 EI4GAB (+7)	45	EI4BZ	588	EI5GM (+17)
70 EI6GF	45	EI4IS	568	EI8JB (+24)
70 EI8JK	45	EI5GM	557	EI5GSB (+82)
69 EI8GP	45	EI7BA	556	EI9JM (+6)
69 EI8BLB (+15)	45	EI8GP	553	EI8IQ (+50)
68 EI/DH0GSU/p			536	EI5GJB (+12)
68 EI8JB		Worked All Zones	524	EI7JZ (+80)
67 EI9GSB (New)	40	EI0CZ	487	EI8IU (+18)
66 EI7IM	40	EI4CF	457	EI3CTB (New)
65 EI6ARB	40	EI7BA	456	EI4GAB (+50)
65 EI7M	40	EI7JN	426	EI3HA (+25)
65 EI8DD	40	EI9JU	404	EI8GP (+5)
64 EI9FV	40	EI9FBB	394	EI3JB (New)

Bob MI6RAX, Octagenarian and Radio Amateur



Bob MI6RAX got a big happy eightieth birthday card signed by his many club friends at the Lough Erne rally. Moreover, it was presented by Old Timer's President Eric Prince and with a year's RAOTA membership.

Throughout years of radio interest, Bob's ambition was an amateur radio license. Opportunity finally came at age 78. Bob joined Lough Erne ARC to be first signed up for the Club's Foundation course in February 2010.

Today, Bob's MI6RAX station QTH is up Station Brae in Ballinamallard, with a 2m antenna on the chimney and a HF vertical in the back garden, erected with help from fellow Lough Erne ARC members.

Well able for banter, Bob has greatly enjoyed his two years on -air. He has a fine collection of QSL cards and contacts logged across Europe and North America.

OH5LID KP32XA - EI8IQ IO62SF 2,314km. New 4M MS World Record.

Congratulations to Pat Whitty EI8IQ from Wexford who set a new 4m Meteor Scatter distance record on Saturday May 5th 2012 when he worked OH5LID in KP32XA.

The record was set during the Aquarids Meteor Shower. There were no exceptional bursts, only one 4 second one and the rsts were weak but workable.



Members Advertisements

For Sale:

From the shack of the late EI5DCB
Icom SP20 Loudspkr for the 775 150.00
Vectronics VC300 ATU €100.00
Manson EP925 €80.00
SGC SG-230 1.6-30MHz Auto ATU
€450.00
Watson Power Mite 22A NF Power Supply
€60.00
All items in excellent condition and can
be collected in Waterford City.
Contact EI9GO
eamonn.phelan14@gmail.com

For Sale:

1.3GHz ATV repeater in excellent condition
including inbuilt duplex filters, and
ancillary 4 screen splitter fully wired for
same.
I am also selling a range of 1.3GHz low
power ATV transmitter and receiver
modules and several linear amplifiers for
1.3GHz.
Enquiries to EI3EG Tel: 021-4343648
Email: aedanomeara@gmail.com

For Sale:

Racal military loop field antenna.
Excellent manufacture. Needs large area
20 x 20m+. All poles, feeder, guys, pegs,
bases etc. own canvas bag.
Offers? Buyer collects.
Contact Joe EI5EV
086-3751066 or 05w1773@gmail.com

Free:

Two Yaesu/SMC UHF commercial mobile
transceivers with matching AC
power supplies.

1. SMC 545L1 one channel.
Some alignment data included.
2. SMC 1045L2 two channels.
Service manual included.

Collect in Dublin.
Contact : Sean EI2CR
Tel. 01-8107383
Email : seancarvin@eircom.net

**Members advertisement are free
Send to ei4bz@eircom.net**

For Sale:

Trio TS-120V 80/40/20/15/10m SSB/CW
10w transceiver.
Optional external VFO (VFO-120),
Microphone, power lead and original
manual all included
Good condition. Price €200.00 o.n.o.
Andrew EI3FEB ei3feb@gmail.com

For Sale

Cushcraft X7 "Big Thunder" triband Yagi
antenna. 20m 15m & 10m although will
easily tune up on 17m & 12m with an
ATU. Also will tune up on 6m
Still on the tower so can be tried before
you buy.
Almost as new condition, €400 o.n.o.
Tony ei8jk@amsat.org

Wanted:

Tilt-over telescopic tower, approx 20m .
Contact: Gerard EI5KF at 087-2546483

For Sale

RCA AR88D receiver for sale in good
condition . Open to offers.
Contact Pat 087 2257988

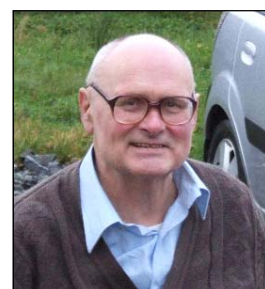


Radio Equipment donated to Cork Radio Club by John EI6IJ

John EI6IJ recently donated a Yaesu FT2000D Transceiver plus ancillaries to Cork Radio Club.
Now living in Donegal, John is a Corkman and did his training for his licence with Cork Radio Club.
The club sincerely thanks John for his kind donation and the kit is being used in the Marconi commemoration station EI100T based in Cobh which has just passed the 12,000 QSO mark since January 1st.

Picture shows members of Cork Radio Club with the FT2000D.

Seated:- Denis EI8GAB, Jack EI7FD, Larry EI5GXB, Finbarr EI1CS, Don EI8DJ, Jeremy EI5GM, Jim EI8GS, Jack EI7HO, Hans EI9GRB, John EI8IR.
Standing:- Ger EI8HT, Hugh SWL, James EI3JN, Dick EI6HH, Denis EI5GSB, Frank EI6EVB, Sean EI3GS, Brian EI5HV, Jerry EI6BT



John EI6IJ

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www.niradios.co.uk

Please note: I can still be contacted at jimbobtraynor@utvinternet.com

North Cork Radio Group Annual Radio Rally & Electronics Fair

Sunday, 9th September 2012

The Roebuck Room, Commons Inn,
New Mallow Road,
Blackpool, Cork

Doors open at 11am and admission is €5.00
(children are free, as usual).

Raffle tickets will also be available at the door.

The usual traders will be present and anyone
wishing to reserve a table or interested in setting
up a stall, should contact

Edwin Van Mierlo EI2HEB
on 086-3885741

or via email at ei2heb@ei1nc.com

Bangor and District ARS Summer Rally.

Saturday 7th July 2012 at 1130

Donaghadee Community Centre,
Donaghadee, County Down

Attractions include

JBT Trading

Peter Bell

Harper Boyd

QSL Buro

BDARS Slide Show

Tearcraft Stall

Barnes Books

Light Snacks/Refreshments

Free Bring & Buy

Talk by

Ian White GM3SEK

"Ten ways to make your
station work better"

Great Raffle Prizes
including dual band
handhelds

More information on
www.bdars.com

Contact Bill GI4AAM for further details:
Tel: 028 9181 6707

Email: bill.langtry@btinternet.com

Shannon Basin members at a recent meeting



Mayo Rally

Welcome Inn Hotel
Castlebar

November 18th 2012



South East Communications

**Amateur Radio
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Dunmore East,
Co. Waterford.
Tel: 051-385853
087-2513772**

Used Equipment - All prices for straight sales

Adonis AM-503G. Both Microphones wired for Kenwood.....	€65.00
Alinco DM330MW. 30 Amp Switch Mode Power supply. New.....	€139.00
Alinco DX-SR8E. Latest HF Rig from Alinco. New	€699.00
Ameritron 811 HXCE. 800w Amplifier. As new.	€899.00
Antron 99 Fibreglass Base Antenna, 10/12m	€89.00
AOR SDU 5000. Spectrum Display Unit. As new condition.....	€499.00
Diamond SX-400 SWR Meter. 2m/70cms. 200w	€85.00
Garmin Quest Handheld GPS. Ireland & Europe	€99.00
Icom UT-106. DSP Unit for IC-706 etc.....	€75.00
Icom IC-781. 150w Base transceiver. Boxed. Mint Condition	€1,499.00
Icom ICR-7000. 0-2000MHz. All Mode Receiver	€599.00
Icom ICR-8500. 0-2000MHz. All Mode Communication Rx.....	€1,199.00
Icom ICR-9000. Top Class Communications Rx. 0-2000MHz	€1,499.00
Kenwood AT-230. 200w Manual ATU	€175.00
Kenwood MC-80. Desk mike for all Kenwood radios	€79.00
Kenwood R-2000. 0-30MHz with VHF converter fitted.....	€399.00
Kenwood THF7E Dual band H/H transceiver with 0-1300MHz Rx	€199.00
Kenwood TS-570DGE. Auto ATU, DSP 100w. Good Condition	€799.00
Kenwood TS-711E. 25w 2m base station.....	€249.00
Kenwood TS-811. 25w 70cm base station.....	€259.00
Kenwood TS-2000. HF-70cms. Auto ATU, DSP, 3yrs old	€1,249.00
LDG KT-100. Auto for FT817.....	€149.00
MFJ Deluxe CW Paddle.....	€75.00
MFJ 969. 300w Roller Coaster Antenna Tuner. Demo	€249.00
Tokyo Hi-Power HL-700B. 600w PEP Solid state amp 0-30MHz	€1,099.00
Vectronics VDLP-300. As new ATU/Dummy load. Boxed, mint	€175.00
Yaesu DMU-2000, Data management unit for FT2000 etc	
Boxed. As new	€899.00
Yaesu FT-1900. 2m 50w mobile.....	€109.00
Yaesu FT-2800, 50 watt, 2m mobile.....	€129.00
Yaesu FT-51R Dual band handheld with drop in charger	€175.00
Yaesu FT-817ND. HF to 70cms, All mode portable	€139.00
Yaesu FT-857D. HF/6m/2m/70cm Mobile. Boxed, as new	€675.00
Yaesu FT-897. HF-70cms. Boxed, As new	€699.00
Yaesu FT-900AT + filters. Classic HF Rig with Auto ATU.....	€799.00
Yaesu FT-990AC. Built in ATU & PSU. V.G.C.....	€999.00
Yaesu VR-5000. All Mode Receiver. 0-2.6GHz	€175.00
Yaesu VX-170. 2m handheld + charger.....	€79.00
***Special Offer**	
Watson 45Amp Switch Mode Power Supply	only €169.00

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Base & Handheld Scanner Sale

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Uniden UBC244CLT Base Scanner	€89.00
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Uniden UBC3500XLT. 25-1300MHz. Boxed as new	€69.00
Uniden UBC785XLT, 25-1300MHz. Boxed as new	€25.00

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2 - 30MHz. No radials €439.00**



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